1939

N

5,000 See Concluding Ceremonies Of 30th Annual Conference

Atlanta Daily World

July 4, 1939

Governor Price, Walter White Speak; Fight for Enactment Of Anti-Lynch Bill Praised

RICHMOND, Va.—(SNS)—Praising Miss Marian Anderson for her "modesty and great gift," Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt presented the 24th Spingarn Medal of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to the famed contralto Sunday afternoon before a crowd of 5,000 at the Mosque, gathered there for concluding ceremonies of the association's 30th annual conference.

"I am happy to have the opportunity to present this Medal to Miss Anderson," said the First Lady. "She had the courage to meet many difficulties. Her modesty, dignity and great gift are well known."

Then, placing the ribbon around the singer's neck, she said, "Your achievement far transcends any race or creed. My thanks and good wishes go to you, Miss Anderson."

The medal is given annually by Joel E. Spingarn, president of the NAACP, to the American Negro who "shall have made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor."

First Lady Speaks Briefly

Every available seat in the Mosque was taken when the ceremonies started at 2:30 P. M., while outside other thousands stood in the street and in Monroe Park listening to the speeches via loud-speaking announcers.

Mrs. Roosevelt, who preceded her presentation of the medal to Miss Anderson with a brief address to the convention delegates, made no reference to the incident of last spring which culminated in her resignation from the Daughters of the American Revolution after that group had refused to permit Miss Anderson to sing in their Constitution Hall in Washington.

She emphasized, however, in opening her address, that "I talk to you as citizens of the United States."

Speaking slowly and distinctly in the glare of spot lights for newsreel cameras, Mrs. Roosevelt blinked frequently from the rapid-fire bombardment of flashlight photographers. Her remarks were broadcast over nation-wide hook-ups of NBC and CBS.

"Back to the People"

"We must have whatever rights of citizenship are ours under the Constitution," she declared, "and the preservation of democracy depends on every individual having those rights.

"All of us are going to work for the possibility of every individual in this democracy to be a really valuable citizen. In a democracy, all responsibility for government comes back to the people. Therefore it doesn't matter to what race or creed you belong."

Warning that education has lagged behind the actual needs of today, Mrs. Roosevelt told the audience "we must face squarely the problem that people cannot grow up as good citizens unless we are concerned about the environment of our people."

"In the end," she added, "the price we pay for people not fit to be citizens is far more than the sacrifice we must make to provide decent environment."

A thunderous ovation followed the First Lady's presentation address, and it was minutes before the audience composed itself to hear Miss Anderson reply.

"I consider it a great honor to receive the Spingarn medal," said the world-renowned singer, "and I realize the significance it carries. I feel it a signal honor to have received the medal from the hands of our First Lady, who is not only a First Lady in name but in her every deed."

Miss Anderson joined with the audience in singing "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder."

Sunday's Program opened with 30 minutes of massed choir singing under the direction of Joseph Matthews, after which the guests of honor and speakers arrived on the stage of the Mosque.

Governor Price Speaks

Urged to take the center seat, Mrs. Roosevelt graciously insisted that Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin of Pittsburgh, who presided at the meeting, sit there. She sat on Mrs. Lampkin's left, beside Governor Price. Miss Anderson was on Mrs. Lampkin's right, beside Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP. Mrs. Price sat on his right.

First speaker on the program, the Governor expressed the hope to the convention that "the assurances of hospitality and welcome given you have been fully justified in your reception and stay in this hospitable and historic city."

"The colored people of Richmond," he continued, "have made quite a reputation in handling large conventions of this character. Whatever doubt existed on this point was very effectively dispelled some years ago when the colored people of this city acted as hosts to the great Elks convention. The good order which prevailed and the splendid deportment of all concerned created the most favorable comment.

Praises Mrs. Roosevelt

"As chief Executive of the State," he said, "it is a pleasure to me to testify to the friendly relationships which exist between the races in Virginia and to say that every deserving and worthwhile effort on the part of the colored group enlists the interest and support of our people as a whole."

Referring to Mrs. Roosevelt, the Governor declared "She has devoted herself unreservedly to the task of constructive service, regardless of race, creed or color.

Mrs. Roosevelt and her distinguished husband, our wonderful President, have led the way in providing for our American people a more abundant life."

Executive Secretary White, making his final report to the convention, praised Richmond for its hospitality and called on members of his race to continue to fight to see that "the United States Constitution is lived up to and the ballot given to every person, regardless of race, creed or color."

White Applauds Dabney

He paid especial tribute to Virginius Dabney, editor of The Times-Dispatch, for his fight for Federal enactment of the anti-lynching bill.

"There are times," he added, "when we become discouraged and some men from the South in Congress cause us to hang our heads in shame. But we are fighting for democracy for all Americans. Our purpose is to urge Negro voters to use their votes wisely and intelligently."

He compared the recent tar-and-feather incident at Warrenton to a Mississippi mob lynching of a Negro.

"Same Mob Spirit"

"The spirit which motivated the outrage at Warrenton is no different from the mob spirit in Mississippi which last month lynched a Negro," he declared, adding that "We will continue the struggle until lynching is wiped out!"

At the end of the program, Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Anderson appeared togethered on the balcony to wave at the thousands who were unable to obtain a seat inside.

1939

Smash Va.

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MAN TAKE
KILLS ES

Afro- 1/22/'40 (orig)

Honor Roll

252 Representatives Voted for the Antilynching Bill. They Are Your Friends.

REPUBLICANS

Alexander (Minn.)
Allen (Ill.)
Anderson (Minn.)
Anderson (Calif.)
Angell (Oreg.)
Arends (Ill.)
Austin (Conn.)
Bartin (NY)
Bates (Mass.)
Bender (Ohio)
Blackney (Mich.)
Bolles (Wis.)
Brewster (Maine)
Brown (Ohio)
Carlson (Kans.)
Carter (Calif.)
Chiperfield (Ill.)
Church (Ill.)
Clason (Mass.)
Corbett (Pa.)
Crawford (Mich.)
Crowther (NY)
Culkin (NY)
Dirksen (Ill.)
Ditter (Pa.)
Douglass (NY)
Dowell (Iowa)
Dworshak (Idaho)
Eaton (NJ)
Elston (Ohio)
Engel (Mich.)
Englebright (Calif.)
Fenton (Pa.)
Fish (NY)
Ford, L. (Calif.)
Ford, T. (Calif)
Gamble (NY)
Gartner (Pa.)
Gerlach (Pa.)
Gifford (Mass.)
Gilchrist (Iowa)
Graham (Pa.)
Grant (Ind.)
Gross (Pa.)
Gwynne (Iowa)
Guyer (Kans.)
Hall, E.A. (N.Y.)
Hall, L.W. (NY)
Halleck (Ind.)
Hancock (NY)
Harness (Ind.)
Harter (NY)
Hartley (NJ)
Hawks (Wis.)
Hess (Ohio)
Hinshaw (Calif.)
Holmes (Mass.)
Hope (Kans.)
Horton (Wyo.)
Jeffries (NJ)
Jenkins (Ohio)
Jenks (N.H.)
Jennings (Tenn.)
Jensen (Iowa)
Johns (Wis.)
Johnson (Ind.)
Jones (Ohio)
Kean (NJ)
Keefe (Wis.)
Kinzer (Pa.)
Kunkel (Pa.)
Landis (Ind.)
LeCompte (Iowa)
Lemke (N.Dakota)
Lewis (Ohio)
Luce (Mass.)
McDowell (Pa.)
McLean (NJ)
McLeod (Mich.)
Maas (Minn.)
Marcantonio (NY)
Marshall (Ohio)
Martin (Iowa)
Martin (Mass.)
Mason (Ill.)
Michener (Mich.)
Miller (Conn.)
Monkiewicz (Conn.)
Mott (Oreg.)
Mundt (S.Dakota)
Murray (Wis.)
Myers (Pa.)
O'Brien (NY)
Oliver (Maine)
Osmers (NJ)
Pittenger (Minn.)
Plumley (Vt.)
Powers (NJ)
Reese (Tenn.)
Reed (Ill.)
Rees (Kans.)
Rich (Pa.)
Risk (R.I.)
Robsion (Ky.)
Rockefeller (NY)
Rodgers (Pa.)
Rogers (Mass.)
Routzohn (Ohio)
Rutherford (Pa.)
Sandager (R.I.)
Schafer (Wis.)
Schiffier (W.Va.)
Seccombe (Ohio)
Seger (NJ)
Shafer (Mich.)
Sheridan (Pa.)
Short (Mo.)
Simpson (Pa.)
Smith (Maine)
Smith (Ohio)
Springer (Ind.)
Stearns (N.H.)
Stefan (Neb.)
Sumner (Ill.)
Taber (NY)
Talle (Iowa)
Thill (Wis.)
Thomas (N.J.)
Thorkelson (Mont.)
Tibbott (Pa.)
Tinkham (Mass.)
Treadway (Mass.)
Van Zandt (Pa.)
Vorys (Ohio)
Vreeland (N.J.)
Welch (Calif.)
White (Ohio)
Williams (Del.)
Winter (Kans.)
Wolcott (Mich).
Wolfenden (Pa.)
Wolverton (N.J.)
Youngdahl (Minn.)

DEMOCRATS

Anderson (Mo.)
Arnold (Ill.)
Barnes (Ill.)
Barry (NY)
Beam (Ill.)
Bloom (N.Y.)
Boehne (Ind.)
Boland (Pa.)
Bradley (Pa.)
Buck (Calif.)
Buckley (NY)
Byrne (NY)
Byron (Md.)
Casey (Mass.)
Celler (NY)
Claypool (Ohio)
Cochran (Mo.)
Coffee (Wash.)
Cole (Md.)
Connery (Mass.)
Costello (Calif.)
Creal (Ky.)
Crosser (Ohio)
Crowe (Ind.)
Cullen (NY)
D'Alesandro (Md.)
Delaney (NY)
Dickstein (NY)
Dingell (Mich.)
Dunn (Pa.)
Eberharter (Pa.)
Edmiston (W.Va.)
Elliott (Calif.)
Evans (NY)
Faddis (Pa.)
Fay (N.Y.)
Fitzpatrick (NY)
Flannery (Pa.)
Fries (Ill.)
Gavagan (NY)
Gearhart (Calif.)
Hart (N.J.)
Harter (Ohio)
Havenner (Calif.)
Hesley (Mass.)
Houston (Kans.)
Hunter (Ohio)
Izac (Calif.)
Jacobsen (Iowa)
Johnson (W.Va.)
Kee (W.Va.)
Keller (Ill.)
Kelly (Ill.)
Kennedy, M. (NY)
Kennedy, A.; (Md.)
Kennedy (NY)
Keogh (NY)
Kirwan (Ohio)
Kocialkowski (Ill.)
Kramer (Calif.)
Larrabee (Ind.)
Lesinski (Mich.)
Ludlow (Ind.)
McAndrews (Ill.)
McCormack (Mass.)
McGranery (Pa.)
McKeough (Ill.)
McLaughlin (Neb.)
Magnuson (Wash.)
Martin (Ill.)
Merritt (N.Y.)
Mitchell (Ill.)
Norton (N.J.)
O'Connor (Mont.)
O'Day (NY)
O'Leary (NY)
O'Toole (NY)
Parsons (Ill.)
Pfeifer (N.Y.)
Polk (Ohio)
Rabaut (Mich.)
Randolph (W.Va.)
Robinson (Utah)
Ryan (Minn.)
Sacks (Pa.)
Sasscer (Md.)
Schaefer (Ill.)
Schuetz (Ill.)
Schulte (Ind.)
Secrest (Ohio)
Shanley (Conn.)
Shannon (Mo.)
Sheppard (Calif.)
Smith (Conn.)
Smith (Wash.)
Smith (W.Va.)
Snyder (Pa.)
Somers (NY)
Sullivan (NY)
Sutphin (N.J.)
Sweeney (Ohio)
Tenerowicz (Mich.)
Tolan (Calif.)
Voorhis (Calif.)
Wallgren (Wash.)
Walter (Pa.)
Ward (Md.)

PROGRESSIVES

[illegible] (Wis.) Hull (Wis.)

Lynchings Diminish In 1939

Journal & Guide 12-30-39

ACCORDING to a report of the department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, just released, three persons were lynched in the United States during 1939. Of the persons lynched two were colored and one was white. One was charged with murder; one with fatally injuring a boy in an automobile accident, and one got into an altercation with another man. The "usual crime" did not figure in the three recorded lynchings.

Two of the mob murders occurred in Florida and the other in Mississippi. The white man was lynched in Florida and was charged with murder.

Tuskegee reports that the 1939 record is three less than the six lynchings for the year 1938; five less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935.

Two of the persons lynched, says Tuskegee, were taken from the hands of the law, one from jail and one from an officer outside of jail.

The Tuskegee department of research and records undertakes to keep track of attempted lynchings, and reports that there were 18 instances in which officers of the law prevented mobs from taking the law into their own hands. All of these instances occurred in the South, it is reported, and 25 persons, five white and 20 colored were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. It is apparent that had not the officers in question performed their duties 28 persons instead of three would have been lynched in 1939.

It is apparent from this showing that lynching can be totally eradicated when officers of the law make up their minds that there will be no lynchings.

There is always some conflict between authorities keeping records on the number of lynchings which occur from year to year in the United States. For example the records of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People show that there were 39 lynchings during 1935-36. Tuskegee Institute reported 28 for the same period. We have now to hear from the NAACP for 1939.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
CASES OF

FLORIDA

6161

3-7-56

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
April 30, 1939

Pair Sought As Lynchers

DAYTONA BEACH.—(AP)—Officers sought last night two white youths named by Constable James Durden as the men who seized Lee Snell, negro taxi driver, from the officer and shot the prisoner dead by the roadside.

Durden told a coroner's jury that Everett and Earl Blackwelder, brothers of 12-year-old Benny Blackwelder, killed yesterday when his bicycle was struck by Snell's taxi, took the negro while the officer was en route to DeLand jail with his charge.

The constable said the men overtook him on the outskirts of the city, rode alongside and cried: "Stop or we'll shoot." They blocked the highway, Durden continued, and Everett covered him with a gun, saying to Earl: "I'll keep Durden covered, you get the negro."

He said Earl ran to the door of the constable's car and started beating Snell over the head with the butt of his gun. Both officer and prisoner jumped from the automobile, he said, whereupon Earl shot the negro with a rifle and his brother quickly fired a shotgun, bringing Snell to the ground.

ALSO READ

State legislators urged to legalize slot machines by pension advocates. That and other state news on Page 35.

As the negro lay there, Durden testified, Earl fired two more shots into the body.

"I had hold of the shotgun when it went off," said the constable. "I thought he was goin to shoot me."

Leaving the negro, one of the Blackwelders kept a gun on him the constable said, while the other turned about their car. The two drove away toward Daytona Beach. Officers said last nigh they had not found the brothers.

After hearing Durden and three negro motorists who corroborated the constable's description of the slaying, the jury continued the inquest until next Tuesday when three additional witnesses are to be heard.

Officers described the Blackwelders as "cowboys," saying they were in the dairying business. Both were in their early twenties.

Peace Justice Charles L. Beers said it was the first slaying of the kind in Volusia county since the early 1880's when a negro, charged with murder, was taken from jail and killed.

Jacksonville representatives of the International Labor Defense quickly dispatched telegrams to Florida's senators, Gov. Cone, Attorney General Murphy at Washington and Congressman Joe Hendricks, deploring the act.

The lynching was the second in Florida this year, following by less than a month the delivery of Miles W. Brown from the Panama City jail by a band of masked men who shot him and left his body by the roadside.

Panama City Jailer Johnny Goodwin said the band expressed displeasure because Brown received life sentence instead of the death penalty for the slaying of Roy Van Kleeck, former county commissioner and hardware merchant.

Dr. M. N. Work, director of research at Tuskegee institute, said yesterday the ~~two lynchings~~ in Florida were the only ones this year in the United States. There were six lynchings in the country last year—the lowest number in history. Three occurred in Mississippi and one each in Florida, Georgia and Louisiana.

Victim Snatched From Custody Of Constable; Riddled With Bullets

Taxicab Driver Lynched After His Automobile Struck And Killed White Cyclist

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—(SNS)—After his car had accidentally struck and killed a white youth named Benny Blackwelder here Saturday, Lee Snell, pioneer colored taxicab driver and World War veteran, was snatched from the custody of Constable James Durden and shot to death by three armed men, two of whom are understood to be brothers of the auto victim. It was another lynching to add to the numerous ones blotting Florida escutcheon.

Authenticated reports from police officials state that Durden was transferring Snell to De Land wheer the latter was to be placed in the county jail.

A good while after the fatal occurence, Durden was travelling about a mile west of the local airport when an automobile driven by the lynching group pulled past him and blocked the road. The three men, police were told, took Snell from car by force and shot him.

Benny Blackwelder, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Blackwelder, 931 Second avenue, was killed in an automobile and bicycle accident at the intersection of Second avenue and Keech street, within sight of his home at 7:28, according to police reports.

The boy, riding his bicycle north on Keech street, was struck by a sedan driven by Snell of 312 Spruce street, who was proceeding east on Second. The collision occurred in the middle of the street intersection, according to police reports.

Snell was taken into custody by police, held for county authorities.

According to police reports the boy was knocked about 25 feet when struck. The cas was stopped by its driver within 35 feet of the accident. The right front fender of the car was bent and bore paint marking from the bicycle. The windshield was shattered from the impact of the boy's body. The front fork and handlebars of the bicycle were bent.

Harvey Blackwelder, brother of the boy, rushed him to Halifax hospital within five minutes after the accident and before the police arrived. He was pronounced dead soon after reaching the hospital. His head was crushed. He probably suffered internal injuries, according to a report from the hospital furnished the police.

SPECIAL BULLETIN!!

According to LeRoy Earle Carter, traveling auditor of the Atlanta Life Insurance company now in Daytona Beach, Florida, committees of protest are being formed and punishment will be demanded for the lynchers of Lee Snell if and when they are caught.

Snell, who accidentally ran over a white youth Saturday, was taken from the custody of an officer and fatally shot by three armed men.

Snell, the former Atlanta insurance representative stated, was one of the oldest taxicab drivers in the city from a standpoint of service, owning his own taxi; was a family man of sober and industrious habits; and was, in every way, a useful citizen.

Carter said he was among the first to reach the scene of the lynching before the body was removed to the mortuary of Bethune Undertaking Company and that, as long as he lives, he'll never forget the expression of agony and fear shown on the distorted face of the lynch victim.

Lynching Of Cabbie Arouses Florida's Colored Citizenry

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Residents of this city are particularly incensed over a lynching which came as result of an automobile accident here Saturday.

5-6-39

12-year-old Benny Blackwelder, white, died of injuries sustained when the bicycle he was riding collided with a taxi operated by one Lee Snell. The taxi driver was arrested and was being transported to jail by Constable James Durden when brothers of the dead boy overtook the two on a public highway, forced the official car to halt and proceeded to shoot Snell to death.

Three colored motorists who witnessed the shooting corroborated the story of the Constable who said that he and the prisoner were proceeding west on the Daytona Beach-Deland Highway when a car containing Earl and Everett Blackwelder blocked the road and forced him to halt. Durden said that he thought the men were trying to kill him and that the gun was discharged during the struggle over the possession of it. Although he stated that he battled the men who were trying to defeat the legal ends of justice he is quoted as saying:

"I had hold of the shotgun when it went off. I thought he was trying to shoot me".

Both of the brothers were armed, he said, one with the shotgun which went off during the altercation and the other brother with a rifle. It was the rifle, held by Earl Blackwelder, from which the fatal bullet was discharged.

Constable Loses His Prisoner

2 White Youths Riddle Body of Cab Driver

Special to Journal and Guide

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla—"There was quite a struggle."

5-6-39

Such was the obvious summary of testimony made by constable James Durden at a coroner's inquest into the lynching death of Lee Snell, taxicab driver, who was shot and killed on a nearby highway in broad daylight, while being transported from the local city jail to the county jail in Deland. The lynching was witnessed by six people traveling the highway.

Snell had been arrested on manslaughter charges in connection with the death of a white boy involved in collision between the boy's bicycle and Snell's taxicab. The two brothers of the boy, both said to be in their twenties, are alleged to have lynched the prisoner, while the constable and six other passers-by witnessed the tragic episode. Neither of the brothers, both identified and formally accused of the slaying, have been apprehended to date.

In the "struggle," described to the coroner's jury by the constable, the man he was sworn to protect was riddled with three rifle bullets and a shotgun blast and the constable himself didn't get a scratch.

The tragic slaying occurred just four miles west of Daytona Beach. The constable told the jury that he was riding along toward DeLand with his prisoner when a car carrying Everette and Earl Blackwelder, older brothers of Ben Blackwelder, Jr., who died as a result of injuries sustained.

According to the testimony of the constable, one of the brothers had a shotgun and other a rifle. One is alleged to have held his gun on the constable while the other ran to the far side of the car and started to beat the prisoner on the head with the butt of his gun.

GRABBED SHOTGUN

Snell, according to the contable's story, clung to the officer and got of the car on the driver's side. When Snell's assailant, said to have been Everett Blackwelder, came around on the side where the officer and his prisoner were standing, the constable grabbed the shotgun and the "struggle" started, he stated. It was stated that Earl Blackwelder, coming on the scene at that time, shot Snell with the rifle.

The prisoner is said to have run. Everett shot him in the knee with shotgun and Earl shot him twice more with the rifle as he fell.

The constable told the jury that both of the slayers got in their car and as they drove away, Earl yelled: "I'll see you after the funeral."

The constable later received a message from Ben F. Blackwelder, Sr., which stated that his two sons would give themselves up to the law after the funeral of their brother, who is 12 years old.

To date, neither of the two men has been apprehended.

Constable Durden explained that he thought the Blackwelders were going to shoot him and that while he had hold of the shotgun, it went off.

LYNCHING SEEN BY SIX

The lynching was staged in broad daylight and was witnessed by three Negroes and three white people. Joe and Nathaniel Stafford, and George Eason, all colored, drove up just as the slaying took place. They told the coroner's jury of the details to the slaying but could not identify any of the principals.

White people who saw the slaying were: Mrs. Estelle Price, and Mrs. C. D. Meadows, in one car; and Marshall E. Schoenthaler, in another.

HAMPERED

Durden was quoted as having told a local newspaper that he was hampered in the "struggle" by Snell clinging to him.

This was the second lynching of the year, according to Dr. Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee. Both have occurred in Florida. The first lynching was that of a white man, accused of murder, who was lynched on April 1.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
May 1, 1939

STATE REFUSES TO INTERVENE

Urged to Act in Negro Lynching Case

By The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — State officials indicated here yesterday that apprehension of the parties responsible for the slaying of a negro near Daytona Beach Saturday would be left to Volusia County officers.

Attorney General George Couper Gibbs said "there is no reason for the State to intervene. It's a matter for local authorities."

Frank McAllister, southern secretary of the Workers Defense League at St. Petersburg, said he had written Gov. Cone, urging him to send a "special representative" to aid in the arrest and trial of two men who shot and killed Lee Snell, negro taxi driver.

"I always leave those matters to the Attorney General and the Prosecuting Attorneys," Gov. Cone said.

PLANS ACTION

In a prepared statement McAllister asserted that if "quick action" was not forthcoming he planned to call on the Civil Liberties Unit of the Federal Department of Justice for an investigation.

Snell's taxi, several hours prior to the slaying, struck 12-year-old Benny Blackwelder, injuring him fatally.

Constable James Durden told a coroner's jury Everett and Earl Blackwelder, the boy's brothers, took the negro from him as he carried his charge to the county jail.

DAYTONA BEACH (AP) Sheriff's deputies said yesterday two men accused of seizing Lee Snell, a negro taxi driver from a constable and shooting him to death and sent word they would surrender after funeral services are held for their 12-year-old brother, who was fatally injured by Snell's taxi.

Constable James Durden identified the slayers as Everett and Earl Blackwelder. Snell who had been arrested after Benny Blackwelder died of injuries, was being taken to the county jail at DeLand.

Chief Deputy J. R. Shadburn said the hunted men had "sent word in they would give up as soon as the funeral for their younger brother is over."

Attorney General Frank Murphy of the United States was urged to intervene to guarantee the constitutional rights of Florida citizens in a telegram to his office from Jacksonville representatives of the International Labor Defense. The telegram pointed out that the second lynching of the month in Florida marked the complete breakdown of civil rights in the state.

Similar telegrams were sent to Governor Cone, to Flordia's Senators and to Representative Hendricks.

WANT INDICTMENT

The fact that the lynching victim was not accused of a serious criminal charge has created considerable sympathy among white and colored people for the lynching victim. He had been arrested on formal charge of manslaughter after the white youth had died as a result of the injuries he sustained when his bicycle collided with the cab driven by Snell.

Local citizens have expressed the hope that the next grand jury will indict the two ~~white~~ brothers.

III and IV

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
May 26, 1939

WHAT IS A LYNCHING?

Reply to Mr. Bimburg, from G. H. T., Tampa:

Edward Bimburg asks for an explanation of why the Daytona case has been called a lynching. The differentiation that we would make is this: Lynching is "punishment inflicted without due process of law." The fact that the negro who was killed was in the hands of the law, killing him while under that supervision interfered with "due process of law." If the negro had received "due process of law," the punishment would probably not have been a death penalty. So the killers "took the law into their own hands," that is, lynched.

III and IV

Miami, Fla. Herald
May 1, 1939

Florida Lynchings

AMERICA'S two lynchings of the year thus far have occurred in the advanced state of Florida, which will not provide desirable publicity. While both killings are listed as lynchings, they were more in the nature of individual slayings rather than mob hangings. Both, too, were performed while the law stood around presumably helpless, failing to protect the prisoners. One of the victims was white, the shooting at Panama City, April 1; the second was a negro near Daytona Beach Saturday.

Lee Snell, taxi driver, was taken from a constable by two brothers, who shot Snell in revenge for the accidental death of their younger brother, run down while riding a bicycle. This was not strictly a lynching.

Shooting motorists who are involved in fatal accidents is a new idea, and if this should become a common practice there will be an increase in violent deaths, but traffic safety will be promoted. The failures of the law in prosecution and punishment of careless drivers may arouse the public to direct action, which would be deplorable. Legal penalties would be preferable.

III and IV

LYNCHINGS-1939
CASES OF

FLORIDA

3-7-56

Slayer Lynched By Florida Mob

White Man Taken From Jail Cell In Panama City

PANAMA CITY, FLA., April 1.—(AP)—Miles W. Brown, 28-year-old son of a retired minister, was shot to death here today by a band of masked men who abducted him from jail after expressing dissatisfaction because he failed to receive the death penalty in a murder trial.

Brown was convicted last night of slaying Roy Van Kleeck, in whose hardware store he formerly worked. The jury's recommendation of mercy made a life sentence mandatory and saved him from the electric chair.

Jailer Johnny Goodwin declared "four or five masked men" stole into the room where he was sleeping, bound and gagged him and took his keys to open Brown's cell.

Goodwin said one of the men told him "the law didn't do justice but we will. We don't want to hurt you."

4-2-39

Brown's bullet-pierced body, clad in pajamas, was found a few hours later on a country road. It was Florida's first lynching since last August.

At Tallahassee, Gov. Fred P. Cone ordered State Atty. Gen. George Couper Gibbs to take charge of the investigation and "bring to justice the murderers of Miles W. Brown."

The body of Van Kleeck, well-to-do merchant and former county commissioner, was found in a bayou near here Jan. 16. Brown was arrested at Jacksonville several days later, and Sheriff John Scott said he confessed the slaying.

The Governor telegraphed State Attorney John H. Carter who prosecuted Brown and Sheriff John Scott to "do all that you can to assist in bringing to justice the murderers of Miles W. Brown."

Carter, in a caustic criticism of the jury, said, "so long as the jury box, from which jurors for the trial of criminal cases are drawn, is largely filled with the names of jurors who do not possess the moral stamina to return verdicts warranted by the evidence, such things as this will be frequently repeated."

"The people are demanding that juries do their duty," he asserted.

Circuit Judge E. C. Welch, before whom Brown was tried, ordered the county grand jury, which was in recess, to reconvene next Wednesday to begin an investigation. Meanwhile, a coroner's jury was conducting its own inquiry.

WHITE SLAYER YANKED FROM CELL, LYNCHED

Four Men In Panama City, Florida, 'Carefully' Shoot Victim

Post

JURY HAD ASKED MERCY

4-1-39

Newcomer To Town Found Guilty—Mob Sentences And Executes Him

Birmingham, Ala.

By United Press.

PANAMA CITY, Fla., April 1.—Miles W. Brown, convicted last night in the kidnap murder of Roy Van Kleeck, was taken from County Jail by a band of masked men early today and shot to death on a country road near here.

Brown, a white man who formerly worked for Van Kleeck, a wealthy hardware dealer, was found sprawled in a rural clearing five miles north of here with one bullet hole in the back of his neck.

According to Fire Chief J. H. Alexander, several cars pulled up in front of the County Jail some time between 2 and 4 o'clock this morning. Four masked men entered the building, overpowered the lone guard, and took Brown from his cell.

Jury Asked Mercy

The abduction was not discovered until nearly dawn, Alexander said.

Brown was convicted of having murdered Van Kleeck when the hardware dealer left his store on the night of Jan. 16. The jury, after deliberating 70 minutes, returned the verdict with a recommendation of mercy.

Brown was to have been sentenced later by Circuit Court Judge C. E. Wells.

Alexander, who discovered Van Kleeck's body the night he was slain, said Brown's body bore no visible signs of beating.

"It looked as though they simply put him out of one of the cars and shot him once, carefully," he said.

No Identification

The jail in which Brown was held is a two-story red brick structure. The convicted man was in a second floor cell when the masked men seized him.

The body was found in open woods, near a lonely country road.

Although the fire chief said four men were known to have entered the jail, he added that no indications of identification had been secured.

Police immediately began a search for the abductors.

Brown had been in Panama City about six months. According to police, he came here from North Carolina.

The guard, John Goodwin, describing the abduction, said "the men were on top of me before I knew it."

'Didn't Say A Word'

"I was lying down on my bed upstairs in the jail when suddenly two men grabbed hold of me. They had black hoods over their heads. They didn't say a word, just piled on top of me and gagged me with the pillow case.

"Then they tied my hands behind my back and took off my pants. They gave the pants to a third man outside my room and he searched them. That's how they got the keys to the cells.

"They were pretty big men and powerful but the two who grabbed me had very soft hands.

"I didn't hear Brown make a cry or fight when they got him out of the cell."

Some time after the kidnapers left with their victim, Goodwin wriggled loose from his bonds and spread the alarm.

Although Brown had been kept at an undisclosed location for some time prior to the trial as a precautionary measure, Sheriff Scott said there had been no recent indications that feeling in the community was running high over the case.

Florida Mob Lynches 28-Year Old White

PANAMA CITY, Fla.—(SNS)—Miles W. Brown, 28-year-old white man, was abducted from the county jail here Saturday and shot to death by a band of masked men.

Convicted Friday night of the first degree murder of Roy Van Kleeck, white, Brown was given a life sentence. The masked mob said to have been dissatisfied because the convicted slayer had failed to receive a death sentence.

4-3-39

Atlanta, Ga.

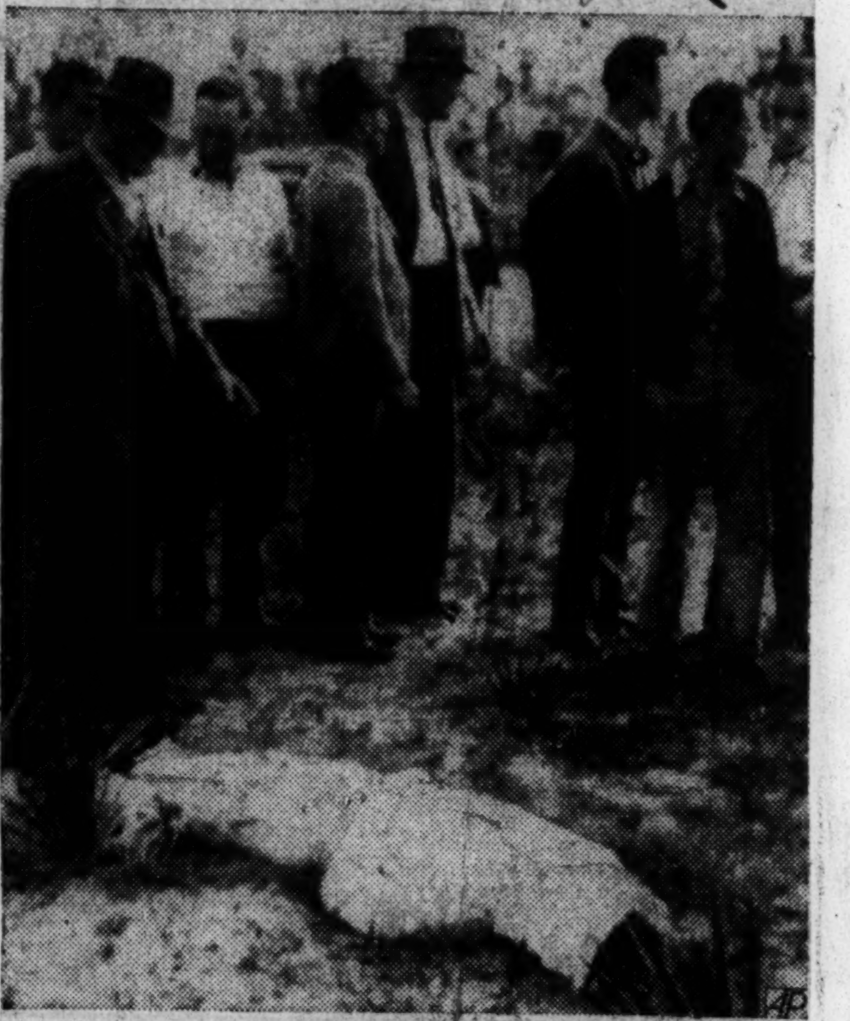
Brown, the son of a retired minister, formerly worked in the hardware store of Kleeck.

The masked men stole into the jail, tied the jailer and after taking his keys, removed Brown from his cell. The bullet-riddled body of the convicted man was found later on a country road, five miles from the jail.

Florida officials were reported incensed over the state's first lynching of the year. State officials and law-enforcing officers launched an investigation immediately following the killing.

Spartanburg S. C. Herald
April 4, 1939

Convicted Florida Slayer Lynched



Shot to death after he was abducted from the county jail at Panama City, Fla., the body of Miles W. Brown, convicted of the slaying of Roy Van Kleeck, Panama City merchant, was found five miles from the city. Here a coroner's jury views its at the spot where it was found. The masked men who took Brown from the jail expressed dissatisfaction because Brown did not get a death sentence

6163

Montgomery Ala Advertiser
April 4, 1939

Convict Lynched

Abducted from the County Jail at Panama City, Fla., by a band of masked men, Miles W. Brown (above), convicted slayer of Roy Van Kleeck, Panama City merchant, was shot to death. His body was found about five miles from the jail.

Chipley, Fla. Banner
April 6, 1939

Lynching at Panama City Saturday Morning

Miles W. Brown who was convicted Friday night of the murder of Mr. Roy Van Kleck, was taken from the jail at an early hour Saturday morning and carried some five miles from town and lynched, his body was found beside the oad.

He was convicted of murder in the first degree but with recommendation from the jury for mercy, making life imprisonment mandatory. Brown was a former employee of Van Kleck.

Governor Cone order an investigation at once and an assistant of the attorney general was assigned to assist in the investigation.

The funeral for Brown was held Sunday afternoon at Panama City, and the body was sent to Miami, home of the widow, for burial. Quite a number from Chipley attended the funeral.

Florida Mob Lynches 28-Yr. Old White Man

4-6-39

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Brothers Kill Driver Held In Death Of Boy

Florida Constable Says Two Overpowered Him And Shot Negro

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA., April 29.—(AP)—Lee Snell, negro taxi driver, was shot to death on a highway near here today while being taken to jail and Constable James Rurden told a coroner's jury the slayers were two brothers of a boy fatally injured by Snell's taxi several hours earlier.

Durden identified the two as Everett and Earl Blackwalder. Snell had been arrested after the death of Benny Blackwelder, 12, who was struck by the taxi while riding a bicycle.

The constable said the men, armed with a shotgun and a rifle, overtook him and his prisoner west of the airport on the Daytona Beach-Deland highway, blocked the road and forced him to halt. He said he scuffled but was overpowered.

4-30-39

Then, said the constable, Earl Black-Welder shot Snell with the rifle and Everett fired a shotgun into the negro.

"I had hold of the shotgun when it went off," said Durden. "I thought he was going to shoot me."

The constable said one of the brothers covered him with the gun while the other turned their car. The two drove towards Daytona Beach.

Three negro motorists who said they saw part of the action corroborated Durden's description of the slaying.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., April 28.—(AP)—The extra-legal slaying of Lee Snell negro, in Daytona Beach, Fla., today was the second such occurrence of the year and both were in Florida, Dr. M N. Work, director of research for Tuskegee Institute, said today.

Miles Brown, a white man, was taken from jail by a group of men at Panama City April 1, carried to a rural section and shot to death. He had been arrested on a charge of murder.

Dr. Work's report showed six lynchings in the United States last year—the lowest number in history. Three occurred in Mississippi, and one each in Florida, Georgia and Louisiana.

SEIZE, KILL NEGRO, OFFICER WATCHING

2 Brothers Shoot Taxi Driver Near Daytona to Avenge Fate of Third

4-30-39

OVERPOWERED CONSTABLE

Victim Had Been Accused of Running Down and Causing Death of Florida Youth

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6160

LYNCHINGS- 1939 GENERAL
CASES OF

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
April 30, 1939

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JACKSONVILLE FLA TIMES UNION
SUNDAY APR 30 1939

Second of Year.

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Hot Iron Torture In Mississippi Rev

Journal and Guide

Lumber Worker Objected To $5.50 Pay Deduction

NEW YORK, N. Y.— The hot-iron torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and respected citizen of Canton, Mississippi, on May 8, was revealed here last week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, following receipt of an investigator's report.

According to the investigator's report Rodgers, a deacon in Canton's Mt. Zion Baptist Church, was shot, tortured by hot irons, brutally cut, and his body thrown in to the Pearl river by a foreman of a local lumber mill where he was employed.

6-10-39

He was lynched, the report said, because he refused to accept a weekly deduction of $5.50 from his wages in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy.

Norfolk, Va

The lynching represents the fifth in the United States for 1939, and the first in Mississippi this year. It followed by nine months the lynching of Claude Banks, in the same time, July 21, 1938. Banks was the innocent victim of a white mob which was seeking suspects in the killing of a white man.

The lynching of Rodgers has brought no arrests, no publicity from the local papers, and an order from two officials advising local citizens to refrain from discussing the crime, despite the fact that the mill worker's body has been recovered from the river and given a decent burial.

The text of the investigator's report follows:

"On the eighth of May at Canton, Miss., a Negro named Joe Rodgers was lynched. He was a workman at a lumber company, and was notified by his foreman that he had to live in the mill quarters. He refused to obey these orders. However, the company deducted from his weekly wages the sum of $5.50 for rent just as if he were living in the mill quarters.

"This Rodgers protested and asked for his full payment. His foreman struck him with a shovel and Rodgers struck him back with one whereupon he was captured, tied hand and foot, shot, tortured with a red hot iron and cut and the body thrown into the Pearl river.

"The body was recovered from the river three days later and held in the funeral parlors of People's Funeral Home at Canton, Miss. He was later buried at Forest, Miss.

"This man was a deacon of Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Canton, president of the church choir, and had a splendid record in every way. The newspapers of Canton have not written a word and there have been no arrests made. The Negroes have been told not to discuss the ncident.

"The sheriff of Canton is C. H. James. The mayor of the town is C. N. Harris."

Other lynchings during 1939 listed by the NAACP follow:

February—Eldorado, Arkansas: Waler Lee Frazier—alleged to have molested white couples—shot.

March—Woodcliff, Georgia: Charley Williams, accused of having said "something to a white woman that he didn' like," was snatched from a reight train and hanged.

April—Panama City, Florida: Miles W. Brown (white), convicted of first degree murder for the killing of a ormer employer, was shot to death after being taken from jail by a band of masked men.

April 29—Daytona Beach, Florida: Lee Snell, Negro taxi driver, was shot to death on a highway near Daytona Beach while being taken to jail, and Constable James Durden said the slayers were two brothers of a boy fatally injured by Snell's taxi several hours earlier.

Mrs Ames reports in letter of June 19 that killed by foreman

* Victim - Reported Alive

6164

Mob Takes Charley Williams Off Train Near Ogeechee, Leaves Note On DeadMan's Chest

Victim Commited No Crime

By Davis Lee
(Editor-Publisher)

Woodcliff, Ga.—Georgia added another lynching to her gory record on Saturday night when Charley Williams, 28 of Rockyford, was taken off the train near Ogeechee by a gang of hoodlums andlynched on the pretex and that he had insulted a whie woman.

According to reliable sources, Williams and another colored man named Johnnie Jackson went to the home of the white woman who lived i na tobacco barn near here to buy some whiskey. Upon returning to the little town, Jackson is alleged to have told some white men that Williams said some things to the woman which she did not like.

Red Brinson white, according to Todd Williams, father of the dead man, headed a group to find Charley Williams.

Mr. Williams, who is a W. P. A. worker near Rockyford, said he told his son to leave and he thought Chraley was in New York or some other place until informed yesterday that he had been lynched.

Getting accurate facts in detail was imposcible under the circumstances. The Negroes in the little towns and surrounding communities wouldn't say much out of fear nor would they come near enough to be questioned by a stranger.

However, at Rockyford, I interviewed two aunts of the dead man and his father and mother. At the time of the interview the body was stiut chee with a note on the ches lying in he woods near Ogee which gave his name, why he was lynched and ended by saying he was lyn [illegible] b. parties unknown.

The aunt claimed that young Williams got on the train at Scarboro and was taken off near Ogeechee: that a Carl Burke, white, of Rockyford told them all about how he was seized, killed and where the body could be found and concluded by saying that they were going to lynch some more "niggers."

As far as could be learned, the authorities have not even bother to go through a rouine investigation.

Screven County Sheriff Tells Journal His Office Had Not Been Informed

NO ACTION TAKEN

Sylvania, Ga.—The lynching of Charley Williams, 28 year old Negro has not been called to his attention, Jack Griffin, sheriff of Screven county told the Editor of The Savannah Journal last night.

After listening to the circumstances surrounding the recent lynching in his own county, during which the Editer told him the names of two of the white men who led the mob, the sheriff said he was sorry but he knew nothing about it.

Williams was lynched on Saturday night by a mob from Woodcliff, Rockyford and surrounding communities for an alleged insult of white woman who operates a speakeasy at Woodcliff.

The mob took him from the train at Ogeechee and carried him to the woods nearby where a lynchin party followed. The body was then left with a note pinned on the chest giving his name and why he was lynched.

When contacted by The Journal, Toud Williams, father of the lynched victim, told The Journal that the mob was headed by a man named Red Brinson of Woodcliff. An aunt of the lynch victim said that Carl Burke, white, related to her in detail the procedure. Burke lives at Rockyford.

Both the colored and white citizens of Woodcliff, Rockyford and Ogeechee have discussed this latest outrage, and just why the sheriff had not been notified has not been learned.

Sylvania - Screven Co -
Woodcliff - Screven Co -

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 1939

Journal 3-12-39

ANOTHER NEGRO IS LYNCHED

While Congress and the Senate are dickering over the passage of the Anti-Lynch Bill to protect the lives of helpless Negroes in the South, Georgia, bitterly opposed to the measure, defiantly lynches a Negro and the authorities haven't even bothered to ask what his name is.

Charley Williams was lynched Saturday night, yet not one newspaper heard about it, and this lynching would never have been made public had not the Editor of this paper been on a tour of Georgia and accidently drove into Woodcliff. The point we wish to make here, is that it is pocsible for Negroes to be lynched in these little places and many are, and the country at large not hear about it. But if there was a Federal law against lynching, and a few whites were sent t oprison for the crime, hot headed whites would not be so eager to take the law in their own hands and eventually there would be no more lynchings.

6165

'Lynched' Negro Is Found At Work In Local Plant

Morning News Savannah, Ga. 8-4-39

MAN LISTED AS 1939 CASUALTY

Minister and Detective Work On Case

ON TRAIL FOR WEEKS

Tuskegee Puts Man Among 4 Lynched In South

VICTIM MUCH AMUSED

Women's Organization Starts Probe of Report

Georgia's undeserved black mark for a 1939 lynching was erased yesterday afternoon when a city detective sergeant and a Methodist preacher located Charlie E. Williams, husky 33-year-old negro, alive and hard at work at a fertilizer plant here.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living." That was the sage observation of the negro whom Tuskegee Institute in its semi-annual report listed as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., in Screven county on Saturday night, March 11.

Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald located Williams working with a gang of other negroes on a salvage job at the plant of the Reliance Fertilizer Company on the Louisville road about 4 o'clock. Along with Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, pastor of Grace Methodist Church, and several others Sergeant Fitzgerald had been doggedly on the trail of the negro for some weeks.

Williams was taken to police headquarters where he was photographed, printed and questioned and then speedily returned to his work.

The negro, powerfully built and tipping the police scale at 190 pounds, seemed much amused at being cast in the role of a lynching victim. "My uncle here told me he read I was lynched," he said.

"You know how colored folks mouth in the country. Well that just came from somebody's mouth. That's a joke somebody put out and I don't think they ought to put that kind of stuff out," he related.

Williams said when he first heard the report he knew his mother would be worried and wrote her a letter stating he was alive and working in Savannah.

"White folks have always been my best friend," the negro said, pointing out how Sheriff Jack Griffin, against whose county the state's lone 1939 lynching was charged, had befriended him on several occasions.

Charlie said he had moved from place to place in recent months in an effort to find work. However, he added, he had worked at a half dozen Savannah business houses and made no effort to conceal his identity.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which was responsible for the investigation, wired Sergt. Fitzgerald:

"In the absence of Mrs. Ames, I wish to express appreciation for your professional help in securing the facts on this case. It is of inestimable value to the association to have thorough investigations on every alleged lynching in the South. Mr. Taylor, with your assistance and that of several other men, has done an outstanding piece of work in this instance. We are deeply grateful."

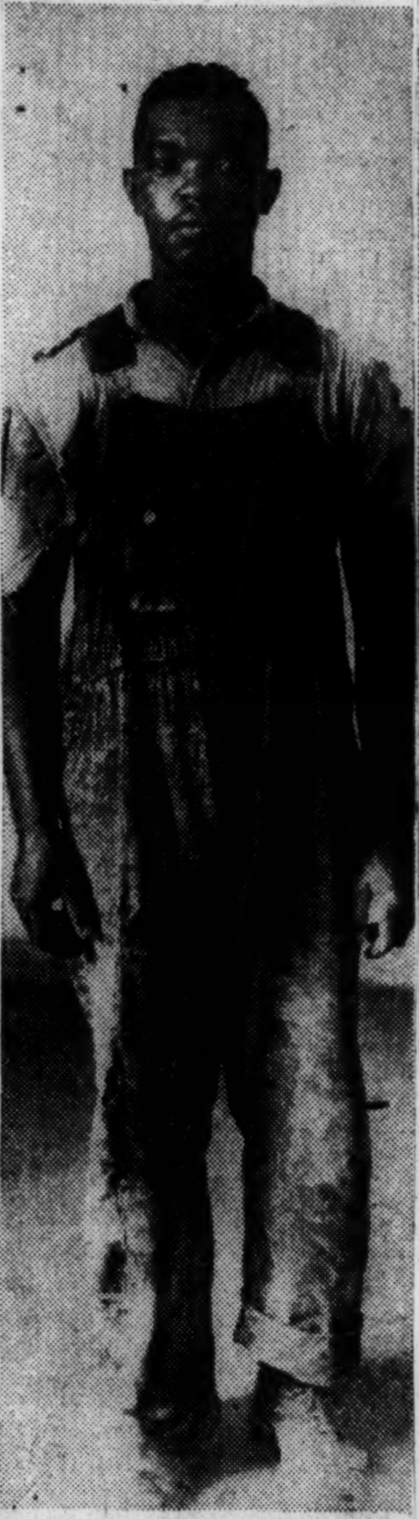
Tuskegee Institute reported four lynchings in the South during the first six months of 1939. In the announcement they were listed by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskeegee, as two in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in Mississippi.

Immediately following this report Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, official of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, wrote the Rev. Mr. Taylor to the effect the scene of the Georgia lynching was placed in Screven county and requested he investigate its accuracy. Thus was launched the long investigation which proved the Georgia lynching a fable.

The erroneous report which was picked up by Tuskegee stated Williams was taken off a train near Ogeechee by a group of white men and lynched on the pretext he had insulted a white woman.

In Tuskegee, M. M. Work, statistician, said the Williams "lynching" was the only one listed for Georgia so far this year. The semi-annual report was published July 1, he added.

Report Exaggerated



—Police Photo.

With white fertilizer material still clinging to his trousers, Charley Williams, alleged lynching victim, is pictured as he was found yesterday working at salvaging material at a burned plant of the Reliance Fertilizer Company.

Explode Georgia Lynching

SERGT. E. A. FITZGERALD

REV. J. O. J. TAYLOR

Somewhat Exaggerated

Constitution

Charley Williams, negro laborer, is alive and working in Savannah. He is, by all accounts, happy and carefree. And, certainly, in good health.

The importance of Charley Williams' condition of life is found in the fact that he was listed, in the semi-annual Tuskegee report on lynchings, as having been the victim of a mob of white lynchers, in Screven county, Georgia, early last March.

8-11-39

This alleged outrage was the only black mark against Georgia, in this category, for the half year. Now the report has been proved false, it leaves the state record stainless for the six-month period. And it reduces the number of lynchings in the south, for that same period to three, instead of the announced four.

Atlanta, Ga.

Three is a disgrace, of course. It is a thing to bring shame to any decent person to hear of a lynching, anywhere, anytime. But, certainly three is, by that much, better than four.

When Charley Williams was found, alive and happy, despite the report of his death by mob violence, he explained his silence by saying, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

Which, it must be conceded, was perfectly sound logic.

However, whether Charley realizes it or not, the entire state of Georgia, the entire south and the entire nation is gratified to discover that he still "knows he is living," and that the erroneous lynching report has been utterly refuted and branded as an undeserved slur on the fair name of Georgia.

Georgia's Alleged "Lynching"

We are carrying Charley William's own story concerning his being "lynched" at Ogeechee in March. Williams gave us a true account of what actually happened, and after hearing his story, we can now understand why his relatives assumed that he had been lynched. Any Negro who beats the husband and offends his white wife in a back-woods town in Georgia will be lucky if he lives to tell his story as in the case of Charley Williams.

The Journal did its duty by printing the story. As the result of our printing it the real truth of the situation came to light. Newspapers don't make news, they just print it, and as a Negro newspaper it is our duty to publish every incident of apparent injustice to our people.

We told so much truth in that March story, which was substantiated by Williams, until we feel like patting ourselves on the back. We are glad that he wasn't lynched, or we would not have him to attest to our abiliy to get the news.

Runs Negro Off From His Home; Tells Him Not To Return

10-39

Cleveland Johnson, Negro share-cropper of Screven county, one mile from Sylvania, was run off from his home and threatened with mob violence if he returns, according to Mr. Johnson who came to The Journal's office and told his story today.

According to Mr. Johnson he entered into a contract with Lester Kemp to farm 12 acres of corn, 9 acres of cotton, one acre of sugar cane, and other items. Now that his crops are ready for market, Kempt has refused to give him his share, and when he asked for it, according to Johnson, Kempt told him to leave and threatened to kill him if he didn't.

Mr. Johnson is married and he doesn't know what the white folk there have done to his wife. He says he went to Sylvania for protection, and consulted a lawyer, but was unable to get anyone to protect his interest.

Before leaving as instructed by Kemp, Mr. Johnson says he told the landlord: "I would like to gather my crop."

KKemp is alleged to have replied: "You aint going to get a damn thing but hell beat out of you."

Mr. Johnson beat his way to Savannah. When he reached the city he was directed to tell his story to Davis Lee, publisher of this paper. Mr. Lee is going to intercede for Mr. Johnson.

4/10/39

'Lynched' Negro Found Hard at Work

8-4-39

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 4.—(AP)—A 33-year-old Negro, Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee Institute listed in its semi-annual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11, was discovered working at a fertilizer plant here. Williams said "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

FOUND BUSY ON HIS JOB

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 10—(Special)—As the result of a statewide investigation launched at the request of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, of the reported lynching near Woodcliff last March of a man whose name was given as Charlie Williams, it is claimed by Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald of the Savannah Police Department that he has found and identified Williams employed at a fertilizer manufacturing plant here.

Sergeant Fitzgerald quoted Williams as stating he knew of the reports that he had been lynched, but kept quiet about it for reasons which were not revealed, even though he apparently was the only one who knew he hadn't been. The Association has been advised of the finding of the reported mob victim, and proof will be offered the organization, it is understood, that the Charlie Williams found here is the same one for whom the prolonged search has been made.

Lynching Hoax Exposed By Investigation; Records Say Charley Williams Is Dead

8-19-39

Oklahoma City, Okla

"I Heard I Was Lynched But Did Not Pay Any Attention to It," Says Supposed-to-be "Dead" Man

Savannah Journal Originated Story

ATLANTA.—(ANP)—Charley Williams, who was reported to have been lynched near Woodcliffe, Screven county, Ga., on March 11, is alive and at work in Savannah. When found by Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald on Thursday of last week, Williams said. "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living." He also said that when he first heard the report he knew his mother would be worried, so he wrote to tell her that he was "alive and working in Savannah."

Williams was reported to have been taken off a train near Ogeechee by a group of white men and lynched "for having said something out of the way to a white woman." At the request of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, a thorough investigation of the case was made by the Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, pastor, Grace Methodist church, and Sergeant Fitzgerald, both of Savannah.

After receiving Mr. Taylor's report which established the fact that Charley Williams had not been lynched, Mrs. W. A. Turner, chairman of the Georgia Council for the Prevention of Lynching, sent the following letter to the members of that body:

"On July 1, Tuskegee reported four lynchings for the first six months of 1939—one of these in Georgia. 'We had not heard of the Woodcliffe lynching reported to have occurred March 11, but following our accustomed practice to find the facts and make them public, we first contacted the sheriff by phone and asked for the facts. We found that the Savannah Journal of March 12 carried a story of the lynching under the caption, 'Mob Takes Charley Williams Off Train Near Ogeechee, Leaves Note on Dead Man's Chest. Victim Committed No Crime.' Sheriff Griffin insisted no lynching took place.

"Mrs. Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Wowen for the Prevention of Lynching, then asked the Rev. J. O. J. Taylor of Savannah (a member of the Georgia Interracial committee) to try to get some information on this lynching. He went to the job like a trained detective and to show his spirit I am quoting from his letter of July 12. 'Regardless of which way the case breaks, the public is entitled to know every fact connected with it. If such a lynching did occur and was suppressed, it is nothing short of the lowest form of crime and we will see that if it did happen, the facts are made known. If it did not occur, then this area is entitled to vindication and will get it. But we are in the case with open minds and will see it through.'

"Mr. Taylor, with the splendid cooperation of Mr. Parr, superintendent of the C. of Ga. R. R., the Rev. R. L. Harris of Rocky Ford, Mr. Fitzgerald of detective bureau of Savannah, Mr. Charlton, city editor of the Savannah Morning News, and others, proved no lynching took place. Several reliable witnesses stated that Charley Williams was working in Savannah. Finally, on August 3, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Fitzgerald found Charley who said, 'I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention it 'cause I knew I was living.' Mr. Taylor writes, '**Charley Williams seems to be a good type Negro. He told a good straight story.**'

"We went into this investigation to find the truth. Frankly I feared the reported lynching might be true, but even so, we wanted the facts known, for only so can we build a public opinion which will not condone lynching. Needless to say, we are very grateful for the fact that Charley Williams is alive."

The original story announcing the lynching was carried in the March 12 issue of the Savannah Journal, edited by Davis Lee, along with an editorial. A second story appeared the following week.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
CASES OF

GEORGIA

6166

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
August 5, 1939

T. 28

LONE LYNCHING 'VICTIM' KNEW IT WASN'T SO

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 5.—Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old Negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzerald Thursday.

In its semi-annual report made July 1, The Tuskegee Institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A Negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Troy, Ala., Messenger
August 11, 1939

'LYNCHED' NEGRO FOUND

SAVANNAH, Ga.—(AP)—Listed as Georgia's sole victim of lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched, but didn't pay no attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald recently.

In its semi-annual report made July 1, the Tuskegee Institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Savannah, Ga., Press
August 4, 1939

"LYNCHED" MAN IS FOUND HERE ALIVE

Clears State of Stigma for Last Year.

Charley Williams, negro whose "lynching" in Screven county last year was reported by Tuskegee Institute in its annual lynching record, was located yesterday afternoon working at a local fertilizer plant. He was located by Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, pastor of Grace Methodist Church, who has been investigating the reported "lynching" for some time, and Sergt. E A Fitzgerald of the Savannah detective bureau.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching was responsible for the investigation.

Williams said he had heard about his "lynching" but inasmuch as he was alive he did not worry about the report. He wrote his mother he was working in Savannah to keep her from worrying about him. "White folks have always been my best friend," Charley observed.

Kingsport, Tenn. Times
August 4, 1939

Lynching "Victim" Very Much Alive

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 4. (AP)—Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald yesterday.

In its semi-annual report made July 1, the Tuskegee Institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Columbia, S. C. Record
August 4, 1939

'Lynched' Negro Is Found Hard at Work in Georgia

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 4.—(AP)—Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year old negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told

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Titusville, Fla., Star Advocate
October 6, 1939

Up at Savannah a negro, listed by the Tuskegee Institute as a lynching victim, remarked, "Yaas, I heerd I was lynched, but I didn't pay no 'tention to hit".

LYNCHINGS- 1939
CASES OF

GEORGIA

6167

Savannah, Ga., News
August 4 1939

'Lynched' Negro Is Found At Work In Local Plant

MAN LISTED AS 1939 CASUALTY

Minister and Detective Work On Case

ON TRAIL FOR WEEKS

Tuskegee Puts Man Among 4 Lynched In South

VICTIM MUCH AMUSED

Women's Organization Starts Probe of Report

Georgia's undeserved black mark for a 1939 lynching was erased yesterday afternoon when a city detective sergeant and a Methodist preacher located Charlie E. Williams, husky 33-year-old negro, alive and hard at work at a fertilizer plant here.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living." That was the sage observation of the negro whom Tuskegee Institute in its semi-annual report listed as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., in Screven county on Saturday night, March 11.

Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald located Williams working with a gang of other negroes on a salvage job at the plant of the Reliance Fertilizer Company on the Louisville road about 4 o'clock. Along with Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, pastor of Grace Methodist Church, and several others Sergeant Fitzgerald had been doggedly on the trail of the negro for some weeks.

Williams was taken to police headquarters where he was photographed, printed and questioned and then speedily returned to his work.

The negro, powerfully built and tipping the police scale at 190 pounds, seemed much amused at being cast in the role of a lynching victim. "My uncle here told me he read I was lynched," he said.

"You know how colored folks mouth in the country. Well that just came from somebody's mouth. That's a joke somebody put out and I don't think they ought to put that kind of stuff out," he related.

Williams said when he first heard the report he knew his mother would be worried and wrote her a letter stating he was alive and working in Savannah.

"White folks have always been my best friend," the negro said, pointing out how Sheriff Jack Griffin, against whose county the state's lone 1939 lynching was charged, had befriended him on several occasions.

Charlie said he had moved from place to place in recent months in an effort to find work. However, he added, he had worked at a half dozen Savannah business houses and made no effort to conceal his identity.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which was responsible for the investigation, wired Sergt. Fitzgerald:

"In the absence of Mrs. Ames, I wish to express appreciation for your professional help in securing the facts on this case. It is of inestimable value to the association to have thorough investigations on every alleged lynching in the South. Mr. Taylor, with your assistance and that of several other men, has done an outstanding piece of work in this instance. We are deeply grateful."

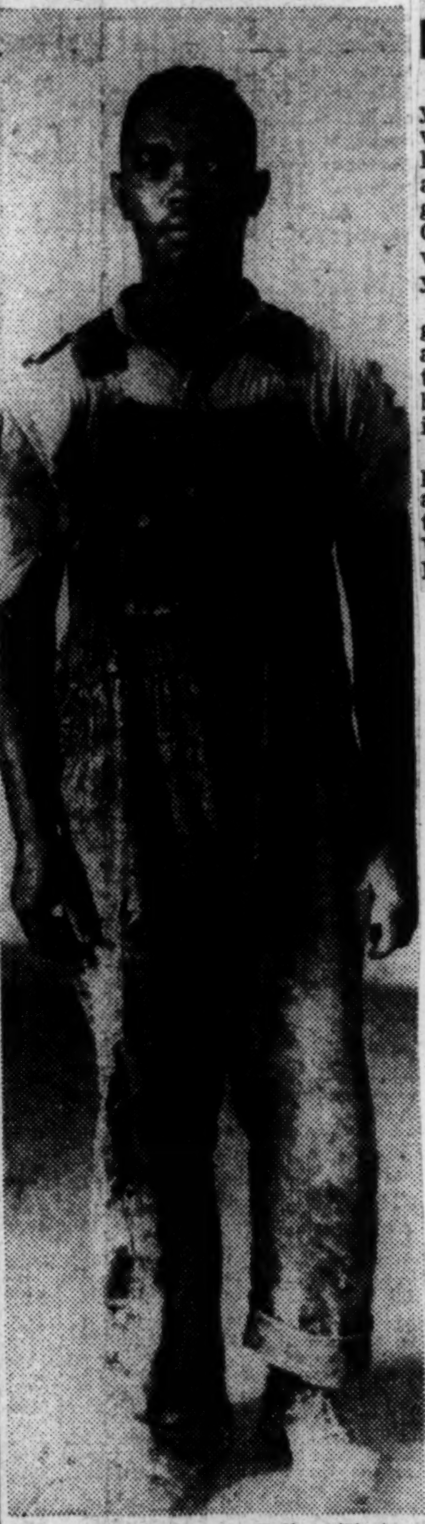
Tuskegee Institute reported four lynchings in the South during the first six months of 1939. In the announcement they were listed by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskeegee, as two in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in Mississippi.

Immediately following this report Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, official of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, wrote the Rev. Mr. Taylor to the effect the scene of the Georgia lynching was placed in Screven county and requested he investigate its accuracy. Thus was launched the long investigation which proved the Georgia lynching a fable.

The erroneous report which was picked up by Tuskegee stated Williams was taken off a train near Ogeechee by a group of white men and lynched on the pretext he had insulted a white woman.

In Tuskegee, M. M. Work, statistician, said the Williams "lynching" was the only one listed for Georgia so far this year. The semi-annual report was published July 1, he added.

Report Exaggerated



—Police Photo.

With white fertilizer material still clinging to his trousers, Charley Williams, alleged lynching victim, is pictured as he was found yesterday working at salvaging material at a burned plant of the Reliance Fertilizer Company.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
August 4, 1939

"Lynched" Negro Is Found Alive

SAVANNAH, Ga.—(AP)—A 33-year-old negro, Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee institute listed in its semi-annual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11 was discovered working at a fertilizer plant here yesterday.

Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald, who found Williams after a dogged search, said the negro told him, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

An investigation of the purported lynching, first reported in a negro newspaper, was made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Chester, S. C., News
August 8, 1939

'Lynched' Negro Is Hard At Work Down In Georgia

Savannar, Ga. — A 23-year-old negro, Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee institute listed in its semi-annual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11, was discovered Friday working at a fertilizer plant here.

Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald, who found Williams after a dogged search said the negro told him, "I heard I was lynched, but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

An investigation of the purported lynching, first reported in a negro newspaper, was made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Tampa, Fla., Times
August 4, 1939

Negro Reported Lynched Found Very Much Alive

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 4 (AP). Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old Negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald yesterday.

In its semi-annual report made July 1, the Tuskegee Institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A Negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzgerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Nashville. Tenn Banner
August 4, 1939

Victim of 'Lynching' Is Found Alive

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 4—(AP)—Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, thirty-three-year-old Negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergt. E. A. Fitzgerald yesterday.

In its semiannual report made July 1, the Tuskegee Institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A Negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzgerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Florence, S. C., Morning News
August 4, 1939

"Lynched" Negro Is Found Living

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 3 — (AP) — A 33-year-old negro. Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee Institute listed in its semi-annual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11 was discovered working at a fertilizer plant here today.

Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald, who found Williams after a dogged search, said the negro told him, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay attention to it "cause I knew I was living".

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
August 4, 1939

Negro Heard He Was Lynched, But 'Knew It Wasn't So'

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 4 —(AP)— Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but did not pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald yesterday.

In it's semiannual report made July 1, the Tuskagee Institute reported Wililams was lynched by a group of white men at Coodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzgerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
August 4, 1939

'LYNCHED,' HE STILL LIVES

Report of Georgia Mob Violence Disproved by Investigation

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 3.—(AP)—A 33-year-old negro, Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee Institute listed in its semiannual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11 was discovered working at a fertilizer plant here today.

Detective Sergt. E. A. Fitzgerald, who found Williams after a dogged search, said the negro told him, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living." An investigation of the purported lynching, first reported in a negro newspaper, was made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Greenville, S. C. News
August 4, 1939

'LYNCHED' NEGRO FOUND WORKING

Knew He Was Living So Ignored Report

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 3.—(AP)—A 33-year-old negro, Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee institute listed in its semi-annual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11, was discovered working at a fertilizer plant here today.

Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald, who found Williams after a dogged search, said the negro told him, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

An investigation of the purported lynching, first reported in a negro newspaper, was made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta, general field secretary of the committee on interracial cooperation, wrote the Rev. J. O. Taylor, pastor of the Grace Methodist church here, asking that he investigate.

At Tuskegee, Ala., M. M. Work, statistician, said the Williams "lynching" was the only one listed for Georgia so far this year. The semi-annual report of the institute was made on July 1.

Charleston, S. C. Evening Post
August 4, 1939

Negro, Allegedly Lynched, Is Alive

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 4. (AP)—Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergt. E. A. Fitzgerald yesterday.

In it's semi-annual report made July 1, the Tuskegee institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Coodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzgerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Columbia, S. C. State
August 4, 1939

"Lynched" Negro Is Hard at Work Down in Georgia

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 3—(AP)—A 33-year-old Negro, Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee institute listed in its shemi-annual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11 was discovered working at a fertilizer plant here today.

Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald, who found Williams after a dogged search, said the Negro told him, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

An investigation of the purported lynching, first reported in a Negro newspaper, was made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta, general field secretary of the committee on interracial co-operation wrote the Rev. J. O. Taylor, pastor of the Grace Methodist church here, asking that he investigate.

At Tuskegee, Ala., M. M. Work, statistician, said the Williams "lynching" was the only one listed for Georgia so far this year. The semi-annual report of the institute was made on July 1.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
August 4, 1939

'Lynched' Negro Is Found Alive

SAVANNAH, GA., Aug. 3.—(AP)—A 33-year-old negro, Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee Institute listed in its semi-annual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11, was discovered working at a fertilizer plant here today.

Detective Sergt. E. A. Fitzgerald, who found Williams after a dogged search, said the negro told him, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

An investigation of the purported lynching, first reported in a negro newspaper, was made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta, general field secretary of the committee on interracial cooperation, wrote the Rev. J. O. Taylor, pastor of the Grace Methodist Church here, asking that he investigate.

At Tuskegee, Ala., M. M. Work, statistician, said the Williams "lynching" was the only one listed for Georgia so far this year. The semi-annual report of the Institute was made on July 1.

Mobile, Ala., Press
August 4, 1939

Reported 'Lynched', Man Is Found Alive

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 4.—(AP)— Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33, colored, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it because I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergt. E. A. Fitzgerald yesterday.

In its semiannual report made July 1, the Tuskegee Institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A colored newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzgerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
August 4, 1939

'Lynched' Negro Found At Work; Scouts Reports

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 4 (AP) — Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched, but didn't pay no attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald yesterday.

In its semi-annual report made July 1, the Tuskegee Institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzgerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women For the Prevention of Lynching.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
August 4, 1939

"LYNCHED" NEGRO VERY ALIVE

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 3—(AP)—A 33-year-old Negro, Charlie Williams, whom the Tuskegee Institute listed in its semi-annual report as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11 was discovered working at a fertilizer plant here Thursday. Detective Sergt. E. A. Fitzgerald, who found Williams after a dogged search, said the Negro told him, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
August 4, 1939

Lynching 'Victim' In Georgia Denies Death

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 4—(AP)— Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald yesterday.

In its semi-annual report made July 1, the Tuskegee Institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., March 11. A negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzgerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
August 4, 1939

LYNCH 'VICTIM' TURNS UP ALIVE

Was Reported Georgia's Only Lynching of Year

SAVANNAH, (AP) — Listed as Georgia's sole victim of a lynching this year, Charlie Williams, 33-year-old negro, was found at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant.

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," Williams told Detective Sergeant E A Fitzgerald yesterday.

In its semi-annual report made July 1, the Tuskegee institute reported Williams was lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga, March 11. A negro newspaper first carried a report of the purported lynching.

Fitzgerald found Williams after a diligent search, made at the request of the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

VICTIM REPORTED ALIVE

6168

LYNCHINGS- 1939
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Charley Williams Alleged Lynched Victim Tells Own Story To The Journal

Charley Williams, 28 year-old Rocky Ford citizen who was reported to have been lynched last March, gave The Journal a complete explanation in an interview last night in the presence of two witnesses.

Williams' story follows:

"I drove a truck for Red Brinson. He sorta put me in charge of the hauling I slipped in an extra trip that week that Brinson didn't know about and made some extra change. Johnny Jackson (colored) knew about it and ask me to buy some liquor.

Journal

"Another boy went with us to Hollis Brag's. These others acted like they did'nt have any money. I buys a half gallon liquor for one dollar. We takes a drink There was some other poor whites there, and they started talking about taking my liquor I told them if they wanted the liquor they was going to pay me for it.

8-19-39

"Well, they kept on talking bout it, and sure enough they came at me to take it. I warned them but they come right on. I wasn't aiming to let them take what I had bought and paid for, so I gives them a real beating Hollis Brag's wife went for the gun and I toll her a thing or two.

Ga.

"Johnny Jackson and the other boy left. Johnny went to Mr. Brinson and told him: 'Charley done raise hell now: he's done beat up Hollis Brag and insulted his wife.'

"When I gets there Mr. Brinson was pretty well drunk his self, and he asks me about it. He tried to stick me up in the house, but I wasn't aiming to let him do that His brother-in-law came in and told me that those was poor crackers and I had better leave.

"I went to my father's and got something to eat. I then goes to a friends house and stays all night. I walked to Ogeechee goes in the store and buys something to eat. I also gets a half pint and a cococola. I catches the train, number six, and I goes to Jacksonville. I stays there a week, and comes back to Savannah, and one day I was walking down the street and I meets a white man from home. He says: Charley, Red Brinson and that crowd is putting it out that you was lynched. I laughed and goes on. Then in March it comes out in the paper that I had been lynched. Since I knowed I wasn' lynched I just didn't bother about it.

"Of course I didn't tell the detective and that preacher all of this. I am well and living and I thank God. If I had stayed I would have been lynched

"Negroes and poor white folks talk too much. I guess some of my folk did think I'd been lynched when I did not go back and they did not hear from me. Now that it's all over I wants to forget it."

Willie Jenkins a na,tive of Rocky Ford who has been in Savannah several years and who is a relative of Charley Williams, said Mr. Fitgerld came to him about Charley and he told the detective where he could be found.

"The detective told me, Mr Jenkins said, "that it look like somebody was trying to collect some insurance or something to put it out that Charley had been lynched."

In the March 12th issue of The Journal we published the alleged lynching in good faith, feeling that it actually happened since Charley Williams' aunt, Mrs. Rachel Moore and Mrs. Hunter, related the incident to us However, in that March issue we told of Williams buying the whiskey, getting in some trouble there, ordered to leave, and stated that he was at Ogeechee on the train.

Williams' own story substantiates everything we said in March, only he was not taken off the train and lynched as his relatives and some of the white folks are alleged to have said.

Georgia's Alleged "Lynching"

Journal

8-19-39

We are carrying Charley William's own story concerning his being "lynched" at Ogeechee in March. Williams gave us a true account of what actually happened, and after hearing his story, we can now understand why his relatives assumed that he had been lynched. Any Negro who beats the husband and offends his white wife in a back-woods-town in Georgia will be lucky if he lives to tell his story as in the case of Charley Williams.

The Journal did its duty by printing the story. As the result of our printing it the real truth of the situation came to light. Newspapers don't make news, they just print it, and as a Negro newspaper it is our duty to publish every incident of apparent injustice to our people.

Georgia

We told so much truth in that March story, which was substantiated by Williams, until we feel like patting ourselves on the back. We are glad that he wasn't lynched, or we would not have him to attest to our abiliy to get the news.

Reported Lone Lynching In State Proves To Be False

8-10-39

MAN SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED NEAR WOODCLIFF

FOUND WELL AND HAPPY IN SAVANNAH

Courtesy of Morning News

CHARLIE WILLIAMS, who was reported as Georgia's lone lynch victim for first half of 1939, is very much alive and working in Savannah.

The Georgia page in the 1939 lynch book is clean for the first half of 1939, although it was reported by a local weekly newspaper to have been blotted by a lynching which this paper stated took place during the month of March near the small town of Woodcliff. The supposed victim was Charlie E. Williams. Last week Williams, hale and hearty and a perfect 190 pound specimen of manhood, was found to be working at a local fertilizer plant on the outskirts of Savannah. He is here shown after those who were investigating the concocted lynching had discovered him at work and taken him to the police barracks for an interview. He was later carried back to his work at the Reliance Fertilizer plant, where he rejoined a construction gang with which he was working.

Williams, when interviewed yesterday by a Tribune reporter, stated that he was amused to learn of his having been lynched. He said that when he first read the account he wrote his mother at Sylvania, telling her that he was well and working in Savannah.

He stated that after he left Woodcliff, following a minor altercation with several white people over some whiskey he had purchased, he went to Jacksonville, where he remained for a week and then went to Waycross, coming to Savannah in February. He found work here in several of the plants in the western outskirts of the city and has remained here.

When the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching read of the Williams' lynching as reported by the Tuskegee Research department as being one of the four lynchings occurring in the South during the first half of 1939, they started an investigation and discovered that there was no foundation for the publication that a lynching had taken place near Woodcliff and that the story was a pure fabrication.

When The Tribune learned this, Dr. Monroe N. Work, director of the Tuskegee Research Department was told of the discovery of the "lynched" man. Mr. Work in replying to The Tribune's letter wrote:

August 7, 1939

Department of Records and Research,
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
Mr. Sol. C. Johnson, Editor,
The Savannah Tribune
1009 West Broad Street
Savannah, Ga.
My dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter of August 4th with enclosed clipping from the Savannah Morning News.

Enclosed are copies of articles in the Savannah Journal concerning this aleged lynching under dates of March 2th and 19th, 1939.

This case was included in our Semi-Annual Report of lynching.

The error seems to be made by the Editor of the Savannah Journal, Mr. Davis Lee.

Very truly yours,
Monroe N. Work, Editor
Negro Year Book.

Following is the account of the alleged lynching as published last March:

MOB TAKES CHARLEY WILLIAMS OFF TRAIN NEAR OGEECHEE, LEAVES NOTE ON DEAD MAN'S CHEST

Victim Committed No Crime

Woodcliff, Ga. — Georgia added another lynching to her gory record on Saturday night when Charley Williams, 28, of Rocky Ford, was taken off the train near Ogeechee by a gang of hoodlums and lynched on the pretext that he had insulted a white woman.

According to reliable sources, Williams and another colored man named Johnnie Jackson, went to the home of the white woman who lived in a tobacco barn near here to buy some whiskey. Upon returning to the little town, Jackson is alleged to have told some white men that Williams said something to the woman which she did not like.

Red Brinson, white, according to Todd Williams, father of the dead man, headed a group to find Charley Williams.

Mr. Williams, who is a W. P. A. worker near Rocky Ford, said he told his son to leave and he thought that Charley was in New York or some other place until informed yesterday that he had been lynched.

Getting accurate facts in detail was impossible under the circumstances. The Negroes in the little towns and surrounding communities would not say much out of fear, nor would they come near enough to be questioned by a stranger.

However, at Rockyford, I interviewed two aunts of the dead man and his father and mother. At the time of the interview the body was lying in the woods near Ogeechee with a note on his chest which gave his name, why he was lynched and ended by saying he was lynched by parties unknown.

The aunt claimed that young Williams got on the train at Scarboro and was taken off near Ogeechee; that a Carl Burke, white, of Rockyford, told them all about how he was seized, killed and where the body could be found and concluded by saying that they were going to lynch some more "niggers."

As far as could be learned the authorities have not even bothered to go through a routine investigation.

Journal
March 12, 1939
Savannah, Ga.

ANOTHER NEGRO IS LYNCHED

While Congress and the Senate are dickering over the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill to protect the lives of helpless Negroes in the South, Georgia, bitterly opposed to the measure, defiantly lynches a Negro and the authorities have not bothered to ask what his name is.

Charley Williams was lynched Saturday night, yet not one newspaper heard about it, and this lynching would never have been made public had not the editor of this paper been on a tour of Georgia and accidentally drove to Woodcliff. The point we wish to make here is that it is possible for Negroes to be lynched in these little places, and many are, and the country at large not hear about it. But if there was a Federal Law against lynching, and a few whites were sent to prison for the crime, hot-headed whites would not be so eager to take the law in their own hands and eventually there would be no more lynchings.

Journal
March 12, 1939
Savannah, Ga.

SCREVEN COUNTY SHERIFF TELLS JOURNAL HIS OFFICE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED

No Action Taken

Sylvania, Ga.—The lynching of Charley Williams, 28 year old Negro, has not been called to his attention, Jack Griffin, sheriff of Screven County, told the Editor of the Savannah Journal last night.

After listening to the circumstances surrounding the recent lynching in his own county during which the Editor told him the names of two of the white men who led the mob, the sheriff said he was sorry but he knew nothing about it.

Williams was lynched on Saturday night by a mob from Woodcliff, Rockyford and surrounding communities for an alleged insult of a white woman who operated a speakeasy at Woodcliff.

The mob took him from a train at Ogeechee and carried him to the woods nearby where a lynching party followed. The body was then left with a note pinned on the chest, giving his name and why he was lynched.

When contacted by The Journal, Todd Williams, father of the lynched victim, told the Journal that the mob was headed by a man named Red Brinson of Woodcliff. An aunt of the lynch victim said that Carl Burke lives at Rockyford.

Both the colored and white citizens of Woodcliff, Rockyford and Ogeechee have discussed this latest outrage, and just why the sheriff had not been notified has not been learned.

Journal
March 19, 1939
Savannah, Ga.

*Victim - Reported Alive.

6169

Lynching Said To Have Happened In Screven County Declared a Myth

Morning News

7-28-39 Savannah, Ga.

Thorough and Unbiased Investigation is Preponderantly Against Any Such Occurrence—Sheriff Jack Griffin Says It Is Absolutely Untrue—First Story of "Lynching" Appeared In March In Savannah Journal—Event Was Listed In Tuskegee Report July 4—"Victim" of Lynching Declared To Be Alive and Well.

The Morning News publishes herewith all the information it has been able to secure from reliable sources regarding an alleged "lynching" which is said to have taken place in Screven county on Saturday night, March 11, and which has been listed in the record of lynchings sent out by Tuskegee Institute.

All of the most reliable information which has come to the Morning News tends to prove conclusively that the person allegedly "lynched" not only was NOT lynched but is still alive and well.

The sole idea of the investigators here interested in the solution of the matter was to find the truth, and if there were no "lynching," then to remove any stigma that may have been recorded against the good people of Screven county. The correspondence which started the agitation to delve into the truth of the matter will be herewith published, and, if after publication, anyone may have recently seen the alleged "victim," those interested in the solution will appreciate the information in order to make the record still more reliable.

There were four lynchings reported by Tuskegee Institute in the South during the first six months of 1939, an increase over last year, this time, when there was but one. In the announcement they were listed by President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee, as two in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in Mississippi. This was published in the Morning News of July 4, but no location of the lynchings was given in the Tuskegee report.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, of which Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, is executive director, wrote Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, pastor of Grace Methodist Church here, and a member of the Inter-Racial Committee, that the Tuskegee semi-annual report included a "lynching at Woodcliffe, Ga." This is in Screven county.

Sheriff Jack Griffin, of Screven county, talked with yesterday by the Morning News, made this positive statement about the matter:

"There is absolutely no truth in the report. Not one person, white or colored, knows of any body being found as alleged in a story published by a negro newspaper in Savannah (Savannah Journal). The story is absolutely untrue. I made an investigation among both white and colored people in Screven county. Not one soul knew anything about a lynching. As a matter of fact the man, one Charley Williams, was seen alive after the date of the supposed lynching. He left this county, it is true, but his whereabouts was known to his family. I know Charley Williams. His body has never been found, because there was no body to find. His father has told me there was not any truth in the report. The two white men mentioned in the news story published in the Savannah negro newspaper, have told me the story was not true. One of them was the man Williams worked for. He said that Williams was at his house when some men were looking for Williams because of remarks he was reported to mave made to a white woman, but the men went away. And when they did, "Red" Brunson, who employed Williams, told Williams to get out of the county, which Williams did. He was not taken off of any train, and everybody here, including his relatives, are convinced Charley Williams is alive and well. Naturally, he is not telling everybody where he is. I don't think it possible for a lynching to happen here and I not know about it. You can state for me that there is not the slightest truth in the report."

The following is the correspondence about the matter:

Letter from the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, dated Atlanta, Ga., July 11, 1939, to Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, Grace Methodist Church, Savannah, Ga.:

"Dear Mr. Taylor.

"When Tuskegee Institute issued its semi-annual report a lynching at Woodcliff, Georgia, was included.

"The only information on this lynching was carried in negro newspapers. I do not question the accuracy of the reports, copies of which I am enclosing. I can readily believe that everything as stated is true. However, it is not good policy for us to accept reports of lynchings carried in negro newspapers, unconfirmed by white persons.

"So, if sometime this summer you happen to be going into Screven county, will you try to get some information on this lynching? Possibly you can get the Methodist preacher there to do a little scouting. If you make a special trip for this purpose I shall, of course, expect to reimburse you for your personal expenses and for transportation at 3c a mile.

"It was a pleasure to meet you down at Macon. I hope that should you be called to Atlanta you will come around to the office.

"With every good wish, I am, Sincerely yours,

"(s) Jessie Daniel Ames."

Enclosures from Mrs. Ames to Mr. Taylor of published stories in the Savannah Journal, with captions:

"Another Negro Is Lynched

"While Congress and the Senate are dickering over the passage of the anti-lynch bill to protect the lives of helpless negroes in the South; Georgia, bitterly opposed to the measure, defiantly lynches a negro and the authorities have not even bothered to ask what his name is.

"Charley Williams was lynched Saturday night, yet not one newspaper heard about it, and this lynching would never have been made public had not the editor of this paper been on a tour of Georgia and accidently drove to Woodcliff. The point we wish to make here is that it is possible for negroes to be lynched in these little places and many are, and the country at large not hear about it. But if there were a federal law against lynching, and a few whites were sent to prison for the crime, hot headed whites would not be so eager to take the law in their own hands and eventually there would be no more lynchings."—Journal, March 12, 1939, Savannah, Georgia.

"Mob Takes Charley Williams Off Train Near Ogeechee, Leaves Note On Dead Man's Chest.

"Victim Committed No Crime.

"Woodcliff, Ga.—Georgia added another lynching to her gory record on Saturday night when Charley Williams, 28, of Rocky Ford, was taken off the train near Ogeechee by a gang of hoodlums and lynched on the pretext that he had insulted a white woman.

"According to reliable sources, Williams and another colored man named Johnnie Jackson went to the home of the white woman who lived in a tobacco barn near here to buy some whisky. Upon returning to the little town, Jackson is alleged to have told some white men that Williams said some things to the woman which she did not like.

"Red Brinson, white, according to Todd Williams, father of the dead man, headed a group to find Charlie Williams.

"Mr. Williams, who is a W. P. A. worker near Rocky Ford, said he told his son to leave and he thought that Charley was in New York or some other place until informed yesterday that he had been lynched.

"Getting accurate facts in detail was impossible under the circumstances. The negroes in the little towns and surrounding communities would not say much out of fear nor would they come near enough to be questioned by a stranger.

"However, at Rocky Ford, I interviewed two aunts of the dead man and his father and mother. At the time of the interview the body was lying in the woods near Ogeechee with a note on the chest which gave his name, why he was lynched and ended by saying he was lynched by parties unknown.

"The aunt claimed that young Williams got on the train at Scarboro and was taken off near Ogeechee; that a Carl Burke, white, of Rocky Ford, told them all about how he was seized, killed and where the body could be found, and concluded by saying that they were going to lynch some more 'niggers.'

"As far as could be learned, the authorities have not even bothered to go through a routine investigation."—Journal, March 12, 1939, Savannah, Ga.

7-28-39

"Screven County Sheriff Tells Journal His Office Had Not Been Informed.

"No Action Taken.

"SYLVANIA, Ga.—The lynching of Charley Williams, 28 year old negro, has not been called to his attention, Jack Griffin, sheriff of Screven county told the editor of the Savannah Journal last night.

"After listening to the circumstances surrounding the recent lynching in his own county, during which the editor told him the names of two of the white men who led the mob, the sheriff said he was sorry but he knew nothing about it.

"Williams was lynched on Saturday night by a mob from Woodcliff, Rocky Ford and surrounding communities for an alleged insult of a white woman who operated a speakeasy at Woodcliff.

"The mob took him from the train at Ogeechee and carried him to the woods nearby where a lynching party followed. The body was then left with a note pinned on the chest giving his name and why he was lynched.

"When contacted by the Journal, Todd Williams, father of the lynched victim, told the Journal that the mob was headed by a man named Red Brinson of Woodcliff. An aunt of the lynch victim said that Carl Burke lives at Rocky Ford.

"Both the colored and white citizens of Woodcliff, Rocky Ford and Ogeechee have discussed this latest outrage, and just why the sheriff had not been notified has not been learned."—Journal, March 19, 1939, Savannah, Ga.

After the investigation, which was a thorough and unbiased one, Mr. Taylor on Wednesday, wrote his report to Mrs. Ames as follows:

"215 West Park Avenue,
"Savannah, Georgia,
"July 26, 1939.

"Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames,
"710 Standard Building,
"Atlanta, Georgia.

"Dear Mrs. Ames:

"I am handing you herewith the final report that I shall be able to make in the case of the reported lynching of Charlie Williams, near Ogeechee, Georgia, the report which stated that he was taken off the train there and lynched. There may be some of repetition in this report.

"First. The Methodist Minister at Rocky Ford, a man whom I have known for years, and whose ability and integrity is 100 per cent for such a matter as this, Rev. R. L. Harris, advises me that he has gone very thoroughly into the matter and that there was no lynching.' He states that as his positive opinion, and says in his letter that the report was 'absolutely false.' He states that the negro did say something improper to a white woman there and that he had to leave. Mr. Harris stated that he was informed by reliable negro people there that Charlie Williams was in Savannah. The negroes there refused to give him the Savannah address.

"Second. Mr. Fitzgerald, of the Detective Bureau of Savannah says that he has not been able to locate this negro in Savannah. If the negroes at Ogeechee and Rocky Ford advised him that an investigation was being made, he would, of course, have been quite likely to leave or to change his name. It is the deliberate opinion of Mr. Fitzgerald that no lynching occurred, and he believes, as I do, that had such a lynching occurred, there would have been some news of it seeping through to his department somewhere. The aid of Mr. Fitzgerald was very valuable to me during this inquiry.

"Third. Mr. Parr, the superintendent of the Central of Georgia Railway, studied the file of this case carefully, and interrogated all the train crews who would have been at all likely to have passed through Ogeechee on any day even near to March 11, and none of them had ever heard anything of a lynching and surely none of them knew anything about any one being taken off a train at any date near that one.

"Fourth. Mr. Richard Charlton, City Editor of the Savannah Morning News, stated to me that neither he nor any of the staff had ever had the slightest hint that such a thing occurred. The files of the paper were carefully examined and there was nothing to be found there. He assures me that had such a thing occurred, it would have made the front page—and never would it have been suppressed.

"I regret that neither Mr. Fitzgerald nor myself has been able to locate Charlie Williams and prove beyond a question that he is alive. I do not see anything else that we could have done to make the investigation complete.

"I have contacted a number of people from that immediate area, and not one of them had ever heard of a lynching being perpetrated there.

"Within a few days I will send to you for your files the original letter written to me by Mr. R. L. Harris, pastor of the Methodist Church at Rocky Ford.

"We may rest assured of one thing.

The Savannah Morning News will carry a story of this reported lynching and of the investigation here and in the territory near Ogeechee. Now if we should have failed to pick up something, we may all rest assured that there will be no lack of further facts when the matter goes into the Savannah Morning News, if such further facts are really there.

"Permit me to say that I believe that your organization has shown in this case, as in all other cases that I have known, a sense of fairness and thoroughness which is to be commended. It is a real pleasure to me to co-operate with such an organization in the search for the truth about these matters, and if in the future, you need my services, you may call upon me without any hesitation.

"I will continue to keep my ears and eyes open, and if there should come to light any further facts, I will send them in to you. The position now is that we can find no evidence, no one has heard of it, and the reports have not been such that we can believe that this did happen. I repeat that the news story which will be given on Friday will surely bring us more facts if such facts really are there.

"There will be no expense account turned in to your organization for the investigation.

"With best personal wishes, I remain, cordially, J. O. J. Taylor, Pastor Grace Methodist Church, Savannah, Ga."

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching includes the following organizations: Women's Missionary Council, Methodist Episcopal Church, South; National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods; National Council of Jewish Women; Southern Interstate Conference, National Council of Jewish Women; Women's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Church; Fifty-first Triennial Convention, Protestant Episcopal Church; Woman's Auxiliary to the National Council of the Province of Sewanee, Protestant Episcopal Church; Executive Board of the Women's Auxiliary, National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church; Committee on Woman's Work, Presbyterian Church, Southeast Region; Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Disciples of Christ; National Young Women's Christian Association; and the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Officers of the association are: Mrs. Atwood Martin, Louisville, Ky., chairman; Mrs. W. A. Newell, Morganton, N. C., secretary; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta, executive director.

Additional information came to Mr. Taylor yesterday from Rev. R. L. Harris, of Rocky Ford, who made a thorough investigation, that he had been informed by persons in the last few days that they had seen Charlie Williams, though they declined to give his address through natural fear that they might become involved in some way. Sergt. E. A. Fitzgerald, of the Savannah police, who aided in the investigation, was of the opinion that Williams was probably in Savannah up to recently, had most likely changed his name, and since the agitation of seeking the truth of the matter, might have left Savannah for some other place.

Those in Savannah interested in the investigation believe that the authorities at Tuskegee made the mistake of taking information evidently furnished it without a verification from other sources. It is likely that the information may have seemed just as believable as it did to the Association of Southern Women, which in the letter to Mr. Taylor used this language:

"The only information on this lynching was carried in negro newspapers. I do not question the accuracy of the reports, copies of which I am enclosing. I can readily believe that everything as stated is true."

However, the investigators said to the Morning News through Mr. Taylor yesterday that they were convinced "everything was untrue," and they believed that in justice and fairness to the people of Screven county the record should be set right. Hence the publication of the above information has been thought proper and advisable. It may be stated that Mr. Taylor, before coming to his Savannah pastorate, was engaged in much investigation work. He belongs to an unpaid group of men, unnamed, who have made such investigations in various parts of Georgia to ascertain the truth. Sometimes the investigation has borne out accusations, sometimes it has not. In all cases there was no ax to grind, no unfair criticism to be started, no particular effort made to discredit or to accredit anyone or any circumstance—simply to get to the bottom of the facts and let the people know the truth which would speak for itself.

In discussing the matter with the Morning News last night, Rev. J. O. J. Taylor stated as follows:

"I personally know Dr. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute and know him to be a fair minded man, whose only object is to get at the truth regarding these matters. I am going to take the matter up with him personally, and I feel sure that all corrections will be made.

"I believe that this investigation will have much value in the fact that it will be known that all such rumors as these will be thoroughly investigated by unprejudiced men, and hence there will be more of care on the part of those who send out reports of this nature as to getting at the real facts in the case."

TODAY'S BEST STORY

Constitution

'Lynched' Georgia Man Says He 'Knows It Ain't So.'

8-4-39

A blot on Georgia's escutcheon for a reported 1939 lynching was erased yesterday. Charlie E. Williams, 33-year-old negro, who was listed as a lynch mob victim, was found alive and at work.

~~"I heard I was~~ lynched, but ~~didn't pay any attention~~ to it 'cause I knew I was living," was the sage observation of the negro, reported in the semi-annual statistics of Tuskegee Institute as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., Screven county, on the night of last March 11.

M. M. Work, statistician, said last night the Williams "lynching" was the only one listed for Georgia this year in the report published July 1.

MAN THOUGHT 'LYNCHED' IS ALIVE AND WELL IN SAVANNAH

ATLANTA. — (ANP) — Charley Williams, who was reported to have been lynched near Woodcliffe, Screven county, Ga., on March 11, is alive and at work in Savannah. When found by Detective Sergeant E. A. Fitzgerald on Thursday of last week. Williams, said, "I heard I was lynched, but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

He also said that when he first heard the report he knew his mother would be worried, so wrote to to tell her that he was "alive and working in Savannah."

Williams was reported to have been taken off a train near Ogeechee by a group of white men and lynched "for having said something out of the way to a white woman." At the request of the Assocation of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, a thorough investigation of the case was made by the Rev. J O. J. Taylor, pastor, Grace Methodist church, and Sergeant Fitzgerald. both of Savannah.

After receiving Mr. Taylor's report which established the fact that Charley Williams had not been lynched, Mrs. W. A. Turner, chairman of the Georgia Council for the Prevention of Lynching, sent the following letter to the members of that body:

"On July 1, Tuskegee reported four lynchings for the first six months of 1939—one of these in Georgia. We had not heard of the Woodcliffe lynching reported to have occurred March 11, but following our accustomed practice to find the facts and make them public, we first contacted the sheriff by phone and asked for the facts. We found that the Savannah Journal of March 12, carried a story of the lynching under the caption 'Mob Takes Charley Williams Off Train Near Ogeechee, Leaves Note on Dead Man's Chest. Victim Committed No Crime.' Sheriff Griffin insisted no lynching took place.

"Mrs. Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, then asked the Rev. J. O. J. Taylor of Savannah (a member of the Georgia Interracial committee) to try to get some information on this lynching. He went to the job like a trained detective and to show his spirit I am quoting from his letter of July 12.

"Regardless of which way the case breaks, the public is entitled to know every fact connected with it. If such a lynching did occur and was suppressed, it is nothing short of the lowest form of crime and we will see that if it did happen, the facts are made known. If it did not occur, then this area is entitled to vindication and will get it. But we are in the case with open minds and will see it through.'

"Mr. Taylor, with the splendid cooperation of Mr. Parr, superintendent of the C. of Ga., R. R., the Rev. R. L. Harris of Rocky Ford, Mr. Fitzgerald of detective bureau of Savannah, Mr. Charlton, city editor of the Savannah Morning News, and others, proved no lynching took place. Several reliable witnesses stated that Charley Williams was working in Savannah. Finally, on August 3, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Fitzgerald found Charley who said, 'I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living." Mr. Taylor writes, 'Charley Williams seems to be a good type Negro. He told a good straight story.'

"We went into this investigation to find the truth. Frankly, I feared the reported lynching might be true, but even so. we wanted the facts known, for ony so can we build a public opinion which will not condone lynching. Needless to say, we are very grateful for the fact that Charley Williams is alive."

The original story announcing the lynching was carried in the March 12, issue of the Savannah Journal, edited by Davis Lee, along with an editorial. A second story appeared the following week.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
CASES OF

GEORGIA

6170

Savannah, Ga., News
July 28, 1939

Lynching Said To Have Happened In Screven County Declared a Myth

Thorough and Unbiased Investigation is Preponderantly Against Any Such Occurrence—Sheriff Jack Griffin Says It Is Absolutely Untrue—First Story of "Lynching" Appeared In March In Savannah Journal—Event Was Listed In Tuskegee Report July 4—"Victim" of Lynching Declared To Be Alive and Well.

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All of the most reliable information which has come to the Morning News tends to prove conclusively that the person allegedly "lynched" not only was NOT lynched but is still alive and well.

The sole idea of the investigators here interested in the solution of the matter was to find the truth, and if there were no "lynching," then to remove any stigma that may have been recorded against the good people of Screven county. The correspondence which started the agitation to delve into the truth of the matter will be herewith published, and, if after publication, anyone may have recently seen the alleged "victim," those interested in the solution will appreciate the information in order to make the record still more reliable.

There were four lynchings reported by Tuskegee Institute in the South during the first six months of 1939, an increase over last year, this time, when there was but one. In the announcement they were listed by President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee, as two in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in Mississippi. This was published in the Morning News of July 4, but no location of the lynchings was given in the Tuskegee report.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, of which Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, is executive director, wrote Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, pastor of Grace Methodist Church here, and a member of the Inter-Racial Committee, that the Tuskegee semi-annual report included a "lynching at Woodcliffe, Ga." This is in Screven county.

Sheriff Jack Griffin, of Screven county, talked with yesterday by the Morning News, made this positive statement about the matter:

"There is absolutely no truth in the report. Not one person, white or colored, knows of any body being found as alleged in a story published by a negro newspaper in Savannah (Savannah Journal). The story is absolutely untrue. I made an investigation among both white and colored people in Screven county. Not one soul knew anything about a lynching. As a matter of fact the man, one Charley Williams, was seen alive after the date of the supposed lynching. He left this county, it is true, but his whereabouts was known to his family. I know Charley Williams. His body has never been found, because there was no body to find. His father has told me there was not any truth in the report. The two white men mentioned in the news story published in the Savannah negro newspaper, have told me the story was not true. One of them was the man Williams worked for. He said that Williams was at his house when some men were looking for Williams because of remarks he was reported to mave made to a white woman, but the men went away. And when they did, "Red" Brunson, who employed Williams, told Williams to get out of the county, which Williams did. He was not taken off of any train, and everybody here, including his relatives, are convinced Charley Williams is alive and well. Naturally, he is not telling everybody where he is. I don't think it possible for a lynching to happen here and I not know about it. You can state for me that there is not the slightest truth in the report."

The following is the correspondence about the matter:

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"Dear Mr. Taylor.

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"The only information on this lynching was carried in negro newspapers. I do not question the accuracy of the reports, copies of which I am enclosing. I can readily believe that everything as stated is true. However, it is not good policy for us to accept reports of lynchings carried in negro newspapers, unconfirmed by white persons.

"So, if sometime this summer you happen to be going into Screven county, will you try to get some information on this lynching? Possibly you can get the Methodist preacher there to do a little scouting. If you make a special trip for this purpose I shall, of course, expect to reimburse you for your personal expenses and for transportation at 3c a mile.

"It was a pleasure to meet you down at Macon. I hope that should you be called to Atlanta you will come around to the office.

"With every good wish, I am, Sincerely yours,

"(s) Jessie Daniel Ames."

Enclosures from Mrs. Ames to Mr. Taylor of published stories in the Savannah Journal, with captions:

"Another Negro Is Lynched

"While Congress and the Senate are dickering over the passage of the anti-lynch bill to protect the lives of helpless negroes in the South; Georgia, bitterly opposed to the measure, defiantly lynches a negro and the authorities have not even bothered to ask what his name is.

"Charley Williams was lynched Saturday night, yet not one newspaper heard about it, and this lynching would never have been made public had not the editor of this paper been on a tour of Georgia and accidently drove to Woodcliff. The point we wish to make here is that it is possible for negroes to be lynched in these little places and many are, and the country at large not hear about it. But if there were a federal law against lynching, and a few whites were sent to prison for the crime, hot headed whites would not be so eager to take the law in their own hands and eventually there would be no more lynchings."—Journal, March 12, 1939, Savannah, Georgia.

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"Victim Committed No Crime.

"Woodcliff, Ga.—Georgia added another lynching to her gory record on Saturday night when Charley Williams, 28, of Rocky Ford, was taken off the train near Ogeechee by a gang of hoodlums and lynched on the pretext that he had insulted a white woman.

"According to reliable sources, Williams and another colored man named Johnnie Jackson went to the home of the white woman who lived in a tobacco barn near here to buy some whisky. Upon returning to the little town, Jackson is alleged to have told some white men that Williams said some things to the woman which she did not like.

"Red Brinson, white, according to Todd Williams, father of the dead man, headed a group to find Charlie Williams.

"Mr. Williams, who is a W. P. A. worker near Rocky Ford, said he told his son to leave and he thought that Charley was in New York or some other place until informed yesterday that he had been lynched.

"Getting accurate facts in detail was impossible under the circumstances. The negroes in the little towns and surrounding communities would not say much out of fear nor would they come near enough to be questioned by a stranger.

"However, at Rocky Ford, I interviewed two aunts of the dead man and his father and mother. At the time of the interview the body was lying in the woods near Ogeechee with a note on the chest which gave his name, why he was lynched and ended by saying he was lynched by parties unknown.

"The aunt claimed that young Williams got on the train at Scarboro and was taken off near Ogeechee; that a Carl Burke, white, of Rocky Ford, told them all about how he was seized, killed and where the body could be found, and concluded by saying that they were going to lynch some more 'niggers.'

"As far as could be learned, the authorities have not even bothered to go through a routine investigation."—Journal, March 12, 1939, Savannah, Ga.

"Screven County Sheriff Tells Journal His Office Had Not Been Informed.

"No Action Taken.

"SYLVANIA, Ga.—The lynching of Charley Williams, 28 year old negro, has not been called to his attention, Jack Griffin, sheriff of Screven county told the editor of the Savannah Journal last night.

"After listening to the circumstances surrounding the recent lynching in his own county, during which the editor told him the names of two of the white men who led the mob, the sheriff said he was sorry but he knew nothing about it.

"Williams was lynched on Saturday night by a mob from Woodcliff, Rocky Ford and surrounding communities for an alleged insult of a white woman who operated a speakeasy at Woodcliff.

"The mob took him from the train at Ogeechee and carried him to the woods nearby where a lynching party followed. The body was then left with a note pinned on the chest giving his name and why he was lynched.

"When contacted by the Journal, Todd Williams, father of the lynched victim, told the Journal that the mob was headed by a man named Red Brinson of Woodcliff. An aunt of the lynch victim said that Carl Burke lives at Rocky Ford.

"Both the colored and white citizens of Woodcliff, Rocky Ford and Ogeechee have discussed this latest outrage, and just why the sheriff had not been notified has not been learned."—Journal, March 19, 1939, Savannah, Ga.

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'Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames,
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"Dear Mrs. Ames:

"I am handing you herewith the final report that I shall be able to make in the case of the reported lynching of Charlie Williams, near Ogeechee, Georgia, the report which stated that he was taken off the train there and lynched. There may be some of repetition in this report.

"First. The Methodist Minister at Rocky Ford, a man whom I have known for years, and whose ability and integrity is 100 per cent for such a matter as this, Rev. R. L. Harris, advises me that he has gone very thoroughly into the matter and that there was no lynching. He states that as his positive opinion, and says in his letter that the report was 'absolutely false.' He states that the negro did say something improper to a white woman there and that he had to leave. Mr. Harris stated that he was informed by reliable negro people there that Charlie Williams was in Savannah. The negroes there refused to give him the Savannah address.

"Second. Mr. Fitzgerald, of the Detective Bureau of Savannah says that he has not been able to locate this negro in Savannah. If the negroes at Ogeechee and Rocky Ford advised him that an investigation was being made, he would, of course, have been quite likely to leave or to change his name. It is the deliberate opinion of Mr. Fitzgerald that no lynching occurred, and he believes, as I do, that had such a lynching occurred, there would have been some news of it seeping through to his department somewhere. The aid of Mr. Fitzgerald was very valuable to me during this inquiry.

"Third. Mr. Parr, the superintendent of the Central of Georgia Railway, studied the file of this case carefully, and interrogated all the train crews who would have been at all likely to have passed through Ogeechee on any day even near to March 11, and none of them had ever heard anything of a lynching and surely none of them knew anything about any one being taken off a train at any date near that one.

"Fourth. Mr. Richard Charlton, City Editor of the Savannah Morning News, stated to me that neither he nor any of the staff had ever had the slightest hint that such a thing occurred. The files of the paper were carefully examined and there was nothing to be found there. He assures me that had such a thing occurred, it would have made the front page—and never would it have been suppressed.

"I regret that neither Mr. Fitzgerald nor myself has been able to locate Charlie Williams and prove beyond a question that he is alive. I do not see anything else that we could have done to make the investigation complete.

"I have contacted a number of people from that immediate area, and not one of them had ever heard of a lynching being perpetrated there.

"Within a few days I will send to you for your files the original letter written to me by Mr. R. L. Harris, pastor of the Methodist Church at Rocky Ford.

"We may rest assured of one thing. The Savannah Morning News will carry a story of this reported lynching and of the investigation here and in the territory near Ogeechee. Now if we should have failed to pick up something, we may all rest assured that there will be no lack of further facts when the matter goes into the Savannah Morning News, if such further facts are really there.

"Permit me to say that I believe that your organization has shown in this case, as in all other cases that I have known, a sense of fairness and thoroughness which is to be commended. It is a real pleasure to me to co-operate with such an organization in the search for the truth about these matters, and if in the future, you need my services, you may call upon me without any hesitation.

"I will continue to keep my ears and eyes open, and if there should come to light any further facts, I will send them in to you. The position now is that we can find no evidence, no one has heard of it, and the reports have not been such that we can believe that this did happen. I repeat that the news story which will be given on Friday will surely bring us more facts if such facts really are there.

"There will be no expense account turned in to your organisation for the investigation.

"With best personal wishes, I remain, cordially, J. O. J. Taylor, Pastor Grace Methodist Church, Savannah, Ga."

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching includes the following organizations: Women's Missionary Council, Methodist Episcopal Church, South; National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods; National Council of Jewish Women; Southern Interstate Conference, National Council of Jewish Women; Women's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Church; Fifty-first Triennial Convention, Protestant Episcopal Church; Woman's Auxiliary to the National Council of the Province of Sewanee, Protestant Episcopal Church; Executive Board of the Women's Auxiliary, National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church; Committee on Woman's Work, Presbyterian Church, Southeast Region; Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Disciples of Christ; National Young Women's Christian Association; and the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Officers of the association are: Mrs. Atwood Martin, Louisville, Ky., chairman; Mrs. W. A. Newell, Morganton, N. C., secretary; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta, executive director.

Additional information came to Mr. Taylor yesterday from Rev. R. L. Harris, of Rocky Ford, who made a thorough investigation, that he had been informed by persons in the last few days that they had seen Charlie Williams, though they declined to give his address through natural fear that they might become involved in some way. Sergt. E. A. Fitzgerald, of the Savannah police, who aided in the investigation, was of the opinion that Williams was probably in Savannah up to recently, had most likely changed his name, and since the agitation of seeking the truth of the matter, might have left Savannah for some other place.

Augusta Ga Herald
July 28, 1939

Investigation Fails to Reveal Negro's Lynching

SYLVANIA Ga., July 28.—"Was the negro lynched or not, and if so, where is the body; and if not, where is the negro?" is the puzzling quandary Screven County authorities and Savannah newspapermen find themselves confronted with today.

Included in the records of lynchings sent out by the Tuskegee Institute recently was the alleged "lynching" of Charlie Williams, 28, reported to have taken place in Screven County near Woodcliffe on Saturday night, March 11.

Authorities say the case of mob violence never happened, but neither they nor the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching has been able to locate Williams.

The Savannah Journal, a negro newspaper, published a story recently saying the Screven County farm hand had been taken off a train near Ogeechee and lynched after a white woman had stated he said some things to her she did not like in a tobacco barn at Woodcliffe.

After a thorough investigation, county authorities, detectives assigned by the Savannah police department, and newspapermen from the local daily newspapers have been unable to locate any trace of the negro.

Sheriff Jack Griffith, of Screven County, said Williams had been warned by the white man who employed him to get out of county after a group of men had come to negro's house hunting for him.

"He was not taken off any train and everybody here, including his relatives, are convinced Charley Williams is alive and well. Naturally, he is not telling anybody where he is," the sheriff remarked.

Train crews in the vicinity of Ogeechee the night the lynching was reported to have taken place have denied the fact that any person was removed from their trains.

Savannah. Ga.. News
July 29, 1939

Improving the Lynching Record

An impartial investigation conducted by Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, pastor of Grace Methodist Church in Savannah, at the request of Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, seems to establish the fact that the alleged "lynching," which was reported to have taken place at Woodcliffe in Screven county last March, was entirely mythical and to prove conclusively that the person allegedly "lynched" not only was not lynched, but is still alive and well. If there is anyone who claims to actually know and to have real proof that a lynching occurred, that person should come forward and "speak now or forever hold your peace."

In conducting the purely fact-finding investigation, there has been no desire or effort to impugn the motives of the Tuskegee Institute or to blame it in the least for publishing what seemed to be an authentic and accurate report, apparently based upon information carried in a Savannah negro newspaper. President F. D. Patterson of Tukegee bears an unquestioned reputation for integrity and nobody believes that he intentionally erred in announcing that four lynchings occurred in the South during the first six months of 1939, including one in Georgia, two in Florida, and one in Mississippi, as compared with one in the first half of the previous year. Confidence prevails that, if convinced by the facts recently gleaned concerning the alleged "lynching" in Georgia that there was no such occurrence in this state, he will gladly correct the report.

The Savannah Journal, which advocates the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill, may have been well intentioned when it published the report of the alleged "lynching" in Screven county, although in the report from Woodcliffe it was admitted that "Getting accurate facts in detail was impossible under the circumstances." Sheriff Jack Griffin and other reputable citizens of Screven county say there is no truth in the report.

The progress attained in recent years in decreasing the number of lynchings strengthens the belief that there is no cause for federal intervention in Southern states to correct a situation, which these states are rapidly correcting through their own initiative. The association which Mrs. Ames represents is continuing its valuable service to the South by carrying forward its program of education to prevent lynching and deserves the encouragement and support of all right-thinking citizens, regardless of race or color. The association constantly stresses the falseness of the claim that lynchings are necessary to the protection of Southern white women. Reports from Washington indicate that agitation in Congress for a federal anti-lynching law has been revived, although the opinion apparently prevails that attention should be focused upon the suppression of gangster killings and other mob violence in Northern cities rather than upon real or imaginary "lynchings" in the South.

Lynched Man Says Report Is Not True

Defender

8-12-39

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 11 (UNP)—"I'm very much alive and working," declared Charlie Williams of himself in clearing up a semi-annual report made by the Tuskegee Institute that he had been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., on March 11.

Williams was working in a fertilizer plant when found by Detective Serg. E. A. Fitzgerald. Williams said: "I heard I was lynched, but didn't pay any attention to it because I knew I was living."

M. M. Work, statistician at Tuskegee reported the Williams lynching was the only one listed against the state of Georgia so far this year.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
CASES OF

MEXICO

6171

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
February 5, 1939

THREE MINERS HELD AS SLAYERS LYNCHED

Mexicon Mob Storms Jail At Capital To Seize Trio

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 4.—(AP)—A mob today stormed the jail in the village of Contra Estaca, Sinaloan, and lynched three miners held for the slaying of seven persons and a criminal assault on a woman last Monday.

The prisoners were stabbed and stoned to death and their bodies dragged through the streets. Police broke up an attempt to burn them in the village square.

The trio, whose names were given as Rogelio and Celestino Lerma, brothers, and Jose Alex, were said to have gone on a shooting rampage Monday after committing a 20,000 peso ($4,000) robbery.

6172

LYNCHINGS- 1939
CASES OF

MISSISSIPPI

May 8. Canton, Madison County, Mississippi.
Joe Rodgers, Negro.
Charge; "he refused to accept a weekly deduction of $5.50 from his wages in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy."
Shot, tortured by hot irons, brutally cut, and his body thrown into the Pearl River.

(See- N.A.A.C.P. Report)

PROBE REVEALS HOT IRON LYNCHING IN MISSISSIPPI

V 3-17-36

Lumber Worker Shot, Burned and Body Thrown in River for Objecting to $5.50 Deduction from Pay

NEW YORK. — The hot-iron torture lynchiing of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and respected citizen of Canton, Mississippi, on ~~May 8, was~~ revealed here today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, following receipt of an investigator's report.

Plaindealer
6-9-39

According to the investigator's report Rodgers, a deacon in Canton's Mt. Zion Baptist church, was shot tortured by hot irons, brutally cut and his body thrown into the Pearl river by a foreman of a local lumber mill where he was employed.

Kansas City
Kans.

He was lynched, the report said because he refused to accept a weekly deduction of $5.50 from his wages in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy.

The lynching represents the fifth in the United States for 1939 and the first in Mississippi this year. It followed by nine months the lynching of Claude Banks in the same town July 21, 1938. Banks was the innocent victim of a white mob which was seeking suspects in the killing of a white man.

The lynching of Rodgers has brought no arrests, no publicity from the local papers, and an order from town officials advising local citizens to refrain from discussing the crime, despite the fact that the mill worker's body has been recovered from the river and given a decent burial. The text of the investigator's report follows:

"On he eighth of May at Canton Miss., a Negro named Joe Rodgers was lynched. He was a workman at a lumber company, and was notified by his foremn that he had to live in the mill quarters. He refused to obey these orders. However, the company deducted from his weekly wages the sum of $5.50 for rent just as if he were living in the mill quarters. This Rodgers protested and asked for his full payment. His foreman struck him with a shovel and Rodgers struck him back with one whereupon he was captured, tied hand and foot, shot, tortured with red hot irons and cut and the body was thrown into the Pearl river.

'The body was recovered from the river three days later and held in the funeral parlors of People's Funeral Home at Canton, Miss. He was later buried at Forest, Miss.

This man was a deacon of Mt. Zion Baptist church at Canton, president of the church choir and had a splendid record in every way. The newspapers of Canton have not written a word and there have been no arrests made. The Negroes have been told not to discuss the incident.

"The sheriff of Canton is C. H. James. The mayor of the town is C. N. Harris."

Other lynchings during 1939 listed by the N.A.A.C.P. follow:

February—Eldorado, Kansas: Walter Lee Frazier — alleged to have molested white couples — shot.

March — Woodcliffe, Georgia: Charley Williams, accused of having said "something to a white woman that she didn't like," was snatched from a freight train and hanged.

April 1 — Panama City, Florida: Miles W. Brown (white), convicted of first degree murder for the killing of a former employer, was shot to death after being taken from jail by a band of masked men.

April 29 — Daytona Beach, Florida: Lee Snell, Negro taxi driver, was shot to death on a highway near Daytona Beach while being taken to jail, and Constable James Durden said the slayers were two brothers of a boy fatally injured by Snell's taxi several hours earlier.

REFUSES $5.50 PAY DEDUCTION IS LYNCHED

Bee

NEW YORK, June 15 — The hot-iron torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and respected citizen of Canton, Mississippi, on May 8, was revealed here recently by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, following receipt of the investigator's report.

According to the investigator's report Rodgers, a deacon in Canton's Mt. Zion Baptist church, was shot, tortured by hot irons, brutally cut, and his body thrown into the Pearl river by a foreman of a local lumber mill where he was employed.

6-18-39

He was lynched, the report said, because he refused to accept a weekly deduction of $5.50 from his wages in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy.

Chicago Ill.

Fifth Lynching of Year

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ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN WOMEN FOR THE PREVENTION OF LYNCHING

5870

LYNCHINGS- 1939
DISCUSSION

Mobile, Ala., Register
January 28, 1939

Southern Women Back Substitute Antilynching Bill

Endorse Garner Suggestion Providing For FBI Probe Of Mob Violence

ATLANTA, Jan. 27.—(AP)—A group of Southern women here today accepted as "a constructive step" a proposed substitute for the Wagner antilynching bill.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching said it had been informed the compromise bill "has been suggested by Vice President John Garner, with the endorsement of President Roosevelt," and "provides for investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of lynchings and other forms of mob violence and public report of the same to Congress."

Journalists Speak

A resolution approved further stated that "this body is of the opinion that such a measure will be a constructive step in the eradication of the evils of mob violence."

Shortly before approving the resolution the group heard two widely known Southern newspapermen, Ralph McGill, executive editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times of Louisville, Ky., discuss the subject.

"Form Of Barbarism"

Ethridge said he favored the Wagner antilynching bill on six specific grounds, while McGill said the lynching problem was a "Southern job" to be solved by education and the building of public opinion rather than by legislation.

Ethridge said he favored enactment of the proposed law which would assess fines against counties in which lynchings occur, first, as a declaration of national policy—an affirmation that Americans, as a people, "do not tolerate a form of barbarism that is only a little more refined than cannibalism."

Montgomery Ala Advertiser
January 28, 1939

Anti Lynching Bill Is Given Women's Okeh

Rally Hears Opposition By McGill, Approval By Ethridge

ATLANTA, Jan. 27.—(AP)—A group of southern women here today accepted as "a constructive step" a proposed substitute for the Wagner anti-lynching bill.

The Association of Southern Women For the Prevention of Lynching said it had been informed the compromise bill, "has been suggested by Vice President Garner, with the endorsement of President Roosevelt," and provides for investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of lynchings and other form of mob violence and public report of the same to Congress."

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Other points were as follows:

The Federal Government owes the protection of its laws to even the humblest citizen.

States have failed to meet obligations.

It is not true that invasion of states rights is threatened by the bill. It would be an effective way of controling lynching.

Polls have shown that 72 per cent of the voters of the nation and 62 per cent of southern voters feel that the legislation should be passed.

McGill, although opposing federal legislation, said he did not see how the Southern states "can successfully oppose the anti-lynching bill on the grounds of states rights, while willing to abdicate states rights on grounds of roads, crop relief, and other forms of federal aid."

Atlanta Ga Journal
January 23, 1939

Anti-Lynching Group Meets Here Thursday

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching will hold a two-day meeting here Thursday and Friday in the Piedmont Hotel, featuring talks by various ministers, educators, authors, newspapermen and police officials.

Speakers will include Mrs. W. A. Newell, Morganton, N. C.; Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan; Tarleton Collier, Dr. Arthur Raper, R. B. Eleazer, Dr. M. Ashby Jones, Major Phil Brewster, Dr. David Marx, Mark Ethridge and Ralph McGill.

Mrs. J. W. Mills, of Tyler, Texas, will preside at the opening luncheon at noon Thursday. Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames will preside at an executive session at 3 o'clock p. m. Mrs. L. O. Turner will preside at the annual dinner Thursday at 7 o'clock, featuring Major Brewster.

Jacksonville Fla Times-Union
January 28, 1939

Anti-Lynching Group Meets

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 27, (UP)—Mark Ethridge, general manager of The Louisville (Ky) Courier-Journal, today asserted most lynchings represented "a conspiracy of the State with the mob."

"Failure to prevent these crimes (lynchings) or to punish their perpetrators has been the willful and deliberate failure of officers to do their duty, and actually represents a conspiracy of the State with the mob," Ethridge said in an address before the annual conference of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

"Thus the States have abdicated both their rights and their obligations in this matter."

Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Atlanta Constitution, doubted that enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation would lessen the number of such crimes. He contended the remedy lay in developing a public opinion that would not tolerate lynchings.

The association resolved that Congress enact a reported compromise anti-lynching proposal that would provide for investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of mob violence.

FOR THE PREVENTION OF LYNCHING

Editor, The Advertiser:

When there is no lynching we forget all about such crimes. But some of us are kept constantly aware of the fact that any day the papers may carry a news story telling of the first lynching in 1939.

Southern women are using every means to reach sheriffs, highway patrolmen, and citizens, in order to convince them that never before in our history could the South afford less to indulge in such lawlessness. We understand both the economic and the political effects of these outbreaks, and we want you to know that we are busy in our association.

The press of the South has added no small weight to public opinion against lynching under any provocation. We—women and citizens—appreciate all that you have done.

Our latest literature is going to you under separate cover.

JESSIE DANIEL AMES,
Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.
Atlanta, Ga., March 24.

ENCLOSURE

Report Of Committee On Methods, Jan. 27, 1939

We recommend that State Councils for the Prevention of Lynching:

(a) Increase roster of organizations committed to a program of education against lynching.

(b) Hold one or more institutes for education against lynching if in the judgment of the chairman and that of her executive committee such institutes are needed.

(c) Try to establish in all colleges student forums on the causes of lynchings and ways to prevent lynchings; encourage students to form study groups in colleges and high schools for the same purpose; whenever forums are sponsored by civic or educational agencies within a State, invite those directing such forums to set aside at least one program for general discussion of the cause and prevention of lynching.

(d) Educate the people in institutes, forums and organizations on the functions and powers of State radio police patrol, the relation of the citizen to this new instrument for maintaining law and order and providing greater security to life and property.

(e) Provide all libraries within each State with literature and posters, and continue the distribution of printed material at public meetings and to individuals.

(f) Submit to denominational and civic publications at least one article sometime during the year dealing with the program of education against lynching.

(g) Call on civic and religious organizations to make systematic efforts to carry the program of education against lynching into rural and industrial areas and to secure signatures of citizens against lynchings.

(h) Continue to secure the signatures of county and State officials including members of the Legislature.

(i) Send letters of appreciation to officers and citizens who may have been instrumental in preventing a lynching, and follow up the disposition of each case in which a lynching is prevented.

We believe that the need for a study book is still recognized. Therefore we ask that such a book as was recommended last year be prepared and published at an early date.

MRS. GEORGE E. DAVIS, South Carolina, chairman.
MRS. G. W. HUMMEL, Kentucky, Secretary.
MRS. R. H. SHEPHERD, North Carolina.
MRS. HENRY HAVENS, Florida.
MRS. H. H. CHAPMAN, Alabama.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching
710 Standard Bldg. Atlanta, Ga.

Wilmington, N C Morning Star
March 27, 1939

EFFECTIVE CURB

From JESSE DANIEL AMES, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, come the following:

When there are no lynching we forget all about such crimes. But some of us are kept constantly aware of the fact that any day the papers may carry a news story telling of the first lynching in 1939.

Southern women are using every means to reach sheriffs, highway patrolmen, and citizens, in order to convince them that never before in our history could the south afford less to indulge in such lawlessness. We understand both the economic and political effects of these outbreaks, and we want you to know that we are busy in our association.

The press of the south has added no small weight to public opinion against lynching under any provocation. We—women and citizens—appreciate all that you have done.

Go ahead ladies, but stick to realities. South Carolina adopted the most effective lynching curb some years ago when it passed a law making it mandatory that where a lynching occurs, the county must pay to the nearest heir of the victim and appreciable sum.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
July 10, 1939

Southern Women Oppose Mob Law

ONE of the most aggressive and worthwhile organizations in the South is that of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Atlanta is the headquarters of the Association. Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames is the executive director. Mrs. Attwood Martin of Louisville, is the chairman and Mrs. W. A. Newell of Morganton, is the secretary.

The organization had its origin in November 1930 in Atlanta when a group of Southern white women assembled with the purpose of devising the most practical way to obtain reliable information on lynchings and to distribute this information and conduct an educational campaign to prevent mob law. The Association now has 65 national and state organizations and 35,000 members.

"There is no membership in the association (as memberships go). Women who belong to one or more of the 65 organizations and who sign a pledge to educate against lynching are listed as actively associated in the work of the association."

In a recent communication from Mrs. Ames to the editor of The Free Press, she points out that there is coincident with the decreasing number of lynchings during the past 18 months an indication that statistical agencies which purport to keep up with and publish the number of lynchings annually and semi-annually include the violent death of a Negro at the hands of one white man and class such murder as a lynching. "Even though the number of lynchings under this interpretation remain fairly uniform with that of past years, nevertheless, we of the Association do believe that the gradual elimination of mobs in this type of lynching denotes such progress in our education program that our Southern courts, supported by public opinion, will, with increasing frequency, convict white men for the murder of a Negro," writes Mrs. Ames.

The Free Press believes the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is working along proper lines. By education through such informative campaigns, public sentiment will be built up against mob rule. Sheriffs and other enforcement officers, charged with the responsibility of protecting those accused of crime and sought by mobs, will find it increasingly disadvantageous to surrender their prisoners.

Education against mob rule will certainly be far more effective than the proposed federal laws penalizing whole communities where a handful of outlaws take matters unto themselves.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
July 9, 1939

"Doctoring" the Lynhing Record

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching has been a powerful factor in building up public sentiment against crimes of mob violence and at the same time has used its influence against drastic federal anti-lynching laws.

According to reports compiled by Tuskekee Institute, there were four lynchings during the first six months of the present year. The decline in the number of such crimes is therefore continued, but the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching thinks it detects some signs of unfairness in these reports. In other words, there are cases in which, according to authentic reports, one man is killed by another and at most it could be murder. But somehow the case gets listed as "a lynching."

If anything like this is going on the average daily newspaper will lose all confidence in those reporting agencies which compile the lynching figures year after year.

The association also gives definite information of 11 instances, in seven states, in which mob violence was averted by peace of officers and others. Two of these cases were right here in Georgia. One of the prisoners, charged with a criminal attack on a white woman, was removed from Walton county to Atlanta for safekeeping and on Friday paid the extreme penalty as the culmination of a fair and orderly trial.

Nobody in the South condones lynching, and it is rapidly disappearing. In the meantime nothing can be gained by misrepresenting the facts, while the record of preventing this crime is very fine.

Macon Ga Telegraph
July 10, 1939

FACTS ON LYNCHING

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

You will be interested in certain facts which seem to be developing as a result of the decreasing number of lynchings during the past eighteen months. I haven't evidence enough to sustain my conclusions, but indications are that there is a disposition on the part of statistical agencies which give out the number of lynchings annually and semi-annually to include the violent death of a Negro at the hands of one white man as a lynching.

Even though the number of lynchings under this interpretation may remain fairly uniform with that of past years, nevertheless, we of the association do believe that the gradual elimination of mobs in this type of lynching denotes such progress in our educational program that our Southern courts supported by public opinion will, with increasing frequency, convict white men for the murder of a Negro.

Atlanta. JESSIE DANIEL AMES

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
July 12, 1939

A REAL LYNCHING NEEDS A MOB

JESSIE DANIEL AMES, executive director of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, in commenting on the decrease in lynching during the past eighteen months, declares that there is an increasing tendency on the part of some statistic agencies to classify the murder of any negro by one white man as a lynching.

This is manifestly ridiculous and smacks of that sort of willful perversion of facts which the radicals use to create "facts" on which to base fallacious conclusions.

A lynching needs first of all a mob. Then it needs the mob to put itself in place of the law by violent means.

Individual instances of personal revenge are no more lynchings than Chicago gang murders were.

Hickory, N. C. Record
August 18, 1939

FEWER LYNCHINGS

It is pleasing to note that the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching has investigated and found that the number of lynchings during the first half of 1939 was three instead of four as reported recently. One lynching which was supposed to have been committed in Georgia did not actually occur, it is explained.

Charles Williams, a negro, who was supposed to have been taken from a train near Ogeechee and lynched, although it was asserted he had committed no crime, has been found to be alive.

When the colored man was interviewed by investigators for the association to prevent lynching, he told them: "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was still living."

That is an extremely happy ending to at least one Southern lynching party.

Tuskegee Institute had reported four lynchings in the South during the first six months this year. In the announcement they were listed by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee, as two in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in Mississippi.

Now Georgia's undeserved black mark thus far in 1939 has been erased.

Charlotte, N. C., News
August 7, 1939

Much Alive

A Lynching Turns Out To Be Non-Existent

Along back in the early days of July we got a communication from Jessie Daniel Ames, secretary of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, in which, cannily confessing she didn't have absolute proof, she expressed some suspicions that the "statistical agencies which give out the number of lynchings annually and semi-annually" weren't always as careful about their facts as they might be.

For one thing, they were inclined to include the "violent death of a Negro at the hands of one white man as a lynching." Thus, of the four "lynchings" reported by Tuskegee Institute for the first six months of 1939, one had certainly been committed by one man, another by a gang of three or four men, and in a third the evidence seemed to suggest murder more than lynching.

But if the lady was in doubt then, she hasn't remained that way. As a result of an investigation instigated by her, one of the four "lynchings" has turned out to be totally non-existent. Charlie Williams, 33-year-old Negro, reported by Tuskegee as having been lynched at Woodcliffe, Ga., on March 11, has been found alive, working in a fertilizer plant at Savannah and cheerfully contemptuous of the report that he had been lynched!

We have no disposition to blame Tuskegee unduly. It took the story of the lynching from a Negro newspaper, and of course assumed its good faith and authenticity. Nevertheless, more care should be exercised to keep the record straight. It helps nothing to confuse terms and make the South's lynching record worse than it actually is.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
August 20, 1939

Fewer Lynchings

(Hickory Daily Record)

It is pleasing to note that the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching has investigated and found that the number of lynchings during the first half of 1939 was three instead of four as reported recently. One lynching which was supposed to have been committed in Georgia did not actually occur, it is explained.

Charles Williams, a Negro, who was supposed to have been taken from a train near Ogeechee and lynched, although it was asserted he had committed no crime, has been found to be alive.

When the colored man was interviewed by investigators for the association to prevent lynching, he told them: "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was still living."

That is an extremely happy ending to at least one southern lynching party.

Tuskegee Institute had reported four lynchings in the South during the first six months this year. In the announcement they were listed by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee, as two in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in Mississippi.

Now Georgia's undeserved black mark thus far in 1939 has been erased.

Ass'n Of Southern Women For Lynch Prevention Continue To Fight Evil

By JOHN R. WILLIAMS
Staff Correspondent

MEMPHIS, Nov. 9—The unrelenting fight on the part of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to have an Anti-Lynching Bill passed by Congress may never enjoy fulfillment. Notwithstanding, the vigorous fight that has been made in the interest of the bill has done much toward bettering sentiment against lynching here in the Southland. To say the least, the vicious evil has been discussed so frankly, so widely and in such truth that few living here in the South can deny the fact that lynching has no place in modern civilization. Too many proud Southerners would hate the idea of having Congress step in and legislate against so important a matter, which, after all, may have been averted had the South taken steps to discourage the evil long ago. Be that as it may, today finds the South quietly and sincerely concerning itself with trying to find effective ways of battling lynching. Forty thousand responsible white women have come forth significantly and formed an organization called "The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching."

The organization has not sought publicity and is comprised of some of the most influential and more wealthy women of this section. It was organized in Atlanta, Ga., with an initial budget of $10,000 provided by its 100 charter members. Today the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is reputed to have more than $20,000 provided by its present membership of 40,000. It has two well paid field agents who are working diligently in practically all the larger cities of the South. Unlike some other organizations of the South which cunningly have come into being for the avowed purpose of protecting Southern womanhood, but which in truth are trading upon evil propaganda among the countless thousands of ignorant Southern whites for the real purpose of fat salaries for shrewd officers, this new organization seems to be clean-cut and abhors commercialism except in so far and only so far as carrying out its purpose is concerned. Rightly, it condemns lynching and properly it admits that a very small number of lynchings that have occurred have been in the inerest of white Southern womanhood. Indeed, it states: "In the light of facts, we dare not longer permit this claim to pass unchallenged nor allow those bent upon personal revenge and savagery to commit acts of violence and lawlessness in the name of women."

Furthermore, the association justly declares that peace officers in the South usually aid and abate lynch mobs and seldom make the slightest effort to protect the victim.

Because of the fact that Mississippi has always led in the number of lynchings, it has been the State where most intensive work has been done by the anti lynching organization. Five thousand ninety-three women, 526 men and 147 peace officers have been recruited there. Tennessee has 3,535 women, 259 men and 202 officers, but Arkansas shows up not so well, having given the organization only 789 women, 69 men and three peace officers.

The association has elected Mrs. Attwood of Louisville, Ky., well known novelist, for its chairman and Mrs. Margaret Ames of Atlanta, Ga., for exective director. Thus far, independent branches have been set up in 15 Southern States.

One of the most enthusiastic members of the organization told the writer, "Although we be of the South, we believe that the N.A.A.C.P. has every right to work for legislation which it hopes might rid the nation of the terrible lynch habit, but we want the world to know that we prefer that such a law might not be necessary. We are trying hard to remedy the situation ourselves. Why shouldn't we?"

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Even if the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people does not get Congress to pass an anti-lynching bill, its efforts to do so seem to have aroused the better thinkers of the South to a sense of duty.

Columbia, S. C. Record
November 2, 1939

Speaks to Delegates

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, general field secretary of the commission on interracial cooperation for the South, Atlanta, Ga., who spoke at a morning session of the South Carolina Conference of Social Work today on "Racial Respect."

Substitute Mob Bill Gets OKEH Of White Women

Famous Fight By NAACP May Bear Rich Fruit

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching Saturday had accepted as "a constructive step" a proposed substitute for the Wagner anti-lynching bill.

2-2-39

The group said it had been informed the compromise, bill "has been suggested by Vice President John Garner, with the indorsement of President Roosevelt," and "provides for investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of lynchings and other forms of mob violence and public report of the same Congress."

A resolution approved further declared that "this body is of the opinion that such a measure will be a constructive step in the eradication of the evils of mob violence." Following the approval of the resolution, the group heard Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times, of Louisville, Ky., and Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Atlanta Constitution, discuss the subject.

Ethridge said he favored the Wagner anti-lynching bill on six specific grounds, while McGill said the lynching problem was a "southern job" to be solved by education and the building of public opinion rather than by legislation.

The Louisvillian said he favored enactment of the proposed lynching law which would assess fines against counties in which lynchings occur, first, as a declaration of national policy—an affirmation that Americans, as a people, "do not tolerate a form of barbarism that is only a little more refined than cannibalism."

He also contended that the federal government owes the protection of its laws even of the humblest citizen; that states have failed to meet obligations; that it is not true that invasion of states rights is threatened by the bill; that it would be an effective way of controlling lynching, and that polls have shown that 72 per cent of the voters of the nation and 63 per cent of southern voters feel the legislation should be passed.

McGill opposes federal legislation, but said he did not see how the southern states "can successfully oppose the anti-lynching bill on grounds of states' rights, while willing to abdicate states' rights on grounds of roads, crop relief, and other forms of federal aid.

The Atlantan also said the south is doing its job through education, the building up of strenger public opinion, and the strengthening of law enforcement bodies, which he believed would be "stronger force than any legislation we might enact." Fear of a new kind of mob violence which would be all the more sinister was expressed by Mr. McGill.

Charlotte, N. C., News
January 28, 1939

Women Back Compromise Lynching Bill

Association Meets In Atlanta

ATLANTA—(AP)—A new legislative approach to the problem of preventing angry mobs from venting their ire on suspected evil-doers bore approval today of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The group, in annual meeting here, termed as a "constructive step" a compromise bill suggested by Vice-President Garner for investigation of lynchings and other forms of mob violence by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Anti-lynching legislation, a troublesome Congressional subject for years, has been a favorite topic of several Southern politicians in campaign speeches. Their denunciation of proposals to assess heavy fines against counties where lynchings occur brought prolonged cheers from audiences.

The woman's group, in commending the compromise bill, said "ascertainment of facts regarding lynching and other forms of mob violence and the full publication of such facts, will prove the most effective weapons in opposing these crimes.

The compromise bill, which was reported to have the endorsement of President Roosevelt, would provide for a report by the FBI to Congress of the lynching investigations.

Butler, Ga., Herald
January 26, 1939

The Assoc[illegible]n of Southern Women for the [illegible]ention of Lynching will hold a [illegible] day meeting in Atlanta Thursday and Friday in the Piedmont Hotel, featuring talks by various ministers, educators, authors, newspapermen and police officials.

Mrs. Jesse D. Ames To Be Next Forum Speaker

Atlanta, Ga.

Daily World 11-19-39

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, genera field secretary, Commission on Interracial Cooperation will discus "Southern Political Trends" Wednesday, November 22, at 7:30 p. m in the Exhibition Room of the Atlanta University Library, at which time she will appear as the fourth speaker in the series of forums on Southern Social Problems which is being sponsored by the Department of Sociology, Morehouse College, and the Educational Division of Negro Affairs, NYA of Georgia.

Mrs. Ames, a native of Texas, is a graduate of Southwestern University and has studied at the University of Texas. During the year 1918-19, she served as treasurer of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association, an organization in which she still holds membership. She was an organizer of the Texas League of Women voters and served as its president from 1919 to 1924. At one time, she was provisional president of the Texas branch of the American Association of University Women. She is a former secretary of the Texas Commission on Prisons and Prison Labor, as well as a former director of Women's Work of the Texas Commission on Interracial Cooperation. Further, she is a member of the Georgia League of Women voters and an organizer of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Since 1930, she has served as executive director of the latter organization.

As a writer, Mrs. Ames has contributed articles on race relation education, prison reform and lynching to various periodicals. Among the books of which she is author are listed: "A New Public Opinion on Lynching"; "Are the Courts to Blame?"; "Why We Lynch"; "Death by Unknown Parties"; and "Friends and Neighbors."

In 1920 and 1924, she was delegate-at-large from Texas to the National Democratic Convention. In 1928, she was alternate delegate at large from the same state.

Call 11-10-39
Kansas City Mo.

Magazine Article Tells How 40,000 Southern White Women Organized to Halt Lynching of Negroes by Mobs

Sheriffs Will Act to Prevent Violence When The Influential Voters Speak; How Phone Saved Georgia Negro

The story of how southern white women have taken the lead in preventing the lynching of Negroes in the South is told dramatically by Lewis T. Nordyke in the November issue of the Survey Graphic magazine. The article was reprinted in the November 2 issue of the Memphis Press-Semitar.

The article, as it appeared in the Memphis daily newspaper, follows:

"A sheriff, even tho disposed to carelessness in such cases, couldn't afford to take any chances after dozens of influential voters had demanded that every possible precaution be taken to insure a constitutional trial or the accused Negro."

That is the significant outcome of a threatened lynching in Georgia thwarted when responsible citizens went into action to prevent it. And it was Southern white women who took the lead.

The story of how, nine years ago in Atlanta, Southern women in whose name many a lynching had occurred organized into the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and have since made remarkable progress toward their objective is told by Lewis T. Nordyke in the November Survey Graphic, just published.

40,000 Sign Pledge

Included in the organization's pledge, now signed by nearly 40,000 white women in the South, is denuncication of "the claim of lynchers and mobsters that they were acting solely in the defense of womanhood.

"In the light of facts, we dare not longer permit this claim to pass unchallenged nor allow those bent upon personal revenge and savagery to commit acts of violence and lawlessness in the name of women."

To destroy this claim the organization showed that of 4297 lynchings in the United States since 1886, only 21 per cent of the victims were charged with crimes, against white women, and that of 211 lynchings between 1922 to 1930, of which 204 were in the South, only 29 per cent involved accusations of crimes against white women.

Sordid Record

In addition, these women publicized the information that of 84 mob victims from 1931 to 1935—

Nine were accused of no crime; 25 were accused of minor offenses; a paralytic negro was lynched on a charge of attempted rape; another negro was shot by a masked mob at night after he had repeatedly insisted on a settlement for his crop.

The method of the association is to inform the public on the real facts of lynching, to put sheriffs and peace officers, many of whom cooperate willingly, on record to use their full powers to prevent mob action, and to organize and enlist in advance officials, ministers, leading citizens and women to oppose lynching and go into immediate action when mob violence threatens.

This last method was illustrated in Georgia when Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta, executive director of the association, on Christmas day in 1934, received word that a lynch mob was forming in a Georgia county. She immediately phoned an active association leader in an adjoining county, who got on the phone, contacted responsible citizens in her own and the next county, and brought pressure to bear on the sheriff that resulted in dispersing the mob.

'Officers Often In Collusion'

The association issued a statement at the end of 1937 pointing out that "all eight victims of lynchings in 1937 were in the hands of peace officers. In seven of the lynchings, investigations indicate officers were either in the mob or were in collusion with the mob.'

The association has therefore pushed its enlistment of peace officers in its cause, and stressed the importance of responsible citizens opposed to lynching replacing the mob pressure to which officials succumb.

"The voters," they say, "will decide for or against lynching this year."

In the Tri-States, Mississippi has 5398 women, 526 men, and 146 officers signed by the association, Tennessee has 3535 women, 259 men, and 202 officers. Arkansas lags far behind with 789 women, 69 men, and only three officers pledged.

Oppose Public Hangings

The association was a spearhead in bringing about repeal of Kentucky's "gallows festival" law, providing public county hangings which produced the shocking exhibition at Smithland, Ky., several years ago. With other anti-lynching forces, the association has been an important factor in the dwindling of lynchings from 21 the year it was organized to six, the lowest on record, in 1938, and in the record of only 105 lynchings during its eight years of existence compared to 211 in the preceding eight years.

"The word 'southern' in the association's name," Mr. Nordyke writes, "is significant, for the program is a native one, conceived, developed and expanded into a Southwide movement by southern-born women."

With Mrs. Ames of Atlanta as its executive director, the association functions thru a central council of 13, of which Mrs. Attwood Martin, of Louisville, well-known as a novelist under the pen-name George Madden Matin, is chairman. In addition independent councils are set up in each of 15 southern states.

Kingsport, Tenn. Times
November 29, 1939

Lynchihgs Decline Throughout South

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Nov. 29. (AP)—Lynchings in southern states have declined in recent years because they "became such bad advertising, Mrs. Jesse Daniel Ames, executive field secretary for the inter-racial commission, believes.

"The south is going after big industry at the moment," the Atlanta woman told the Kentucky inter-racial commission last night, "and a lawless, lynch-mob population isn't going to attract very much outside capital."

The advent of organized labor for both white and negro workers has created new problems for southern states, she said.

Earlier, in an interview, Mrs. Ames said she opposed federal anti-lynching laws because "first, none could be enforced; second, people would sit back and leave the problem up to the federal government. and, third, such laws would endanger the lives of negroes in rural areas."

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
July 9, 1939

Point Of Privilege

By JOHN KILGORE

A communication from Jesse Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, raises a question that has long troubled this writer . . . "I haven't evidence enough to sustain my conclusions," she writes, "but indications are that there is a disposition on the part of statistical agencies, which give out the number of lynchings annually and semi-annually, to include the violent death of a negro at the hands of one white man as a lynching."

The Association is the best example of the sort of organized and unorganized effort that is being made to reduce lynchings to the vanishing point in the south—the sort of effort that will continue if the residents of other sections, who have plenty of problems of their own, will leave us free to deal with ours . . . The Association is formed of southern white women, exclusively, and is organized around a great many women's federations, councils and church societies.

To return to the point at issue: The Tuskeegee Institute report for the first six months of 1939, lists four "lynchings" of which two are assigned to Florida . . . One of these so-called lynchings was the Daytona Beach case in which a negro was killed by one or two white men under circumstances which give the incident all the color of "private vengeance" . . . The Panama City case involved a young white man who was taken from jail and killed by a party of four men—a case which has strong indications of "vengeance," although no identification has been made of the parties . . . We recall, in this connection, that when Tallahassee was credited with a double lynching, the act was perpetrated by four men who may have acted upon rather personal motives.

Among the four "lynchings" recorded this year, the Association says, two only were reported by the Associated Press—these two being the Florida cases, one involving a white man and the other a negro. Facts seem to be meagre about the other two cases, one reported from Woodcliff, Ga., and the other from Canton, Miss . . . But the Association records that the first report of one of the cases was that "the body was found in the Ogeechee swamp" . . . and two months later a second report saying: "A man was snatched from a freight train and hanged."

It seems to this column that a definition of "lynching" is badly needed . . . If a lynching is a homicide perpetrated upon a person who is in the custody of the law or who is suspected of having committed a crime, then there have been many "lynchings" that we have been in the habit of classifying variously under several types of murder and homicide.

This writer has always regarded a "lynching" as the organized act of a "mob," acting under color of processes which formerly might have been justified by the laxness or absence of law enforcement, such as the vigilante committees of the west, that established extra-legal courts to enforce property and personal rights, and such as the original Ku Klux Klan in the south, organized at a time when the available arms of government failed miserably either to enforce the law with impartiality or to give protection to a considerable number of the residents of the area . . . Under such a conception of the term, we have looked upon the diminishing frequency of lynchings in the south as the natural consequence of altered conditions which have removed the former necessity for such extra-legal machinery—the process being retarded by inertia against change and by the difficulty of breaking habits once formed, especially among the older inhabitants whose experience runs back to the time of necessity.

In the failure of organized and sanctioned law agencies, we do not doubt that the people would institute immediately their own informal courts and officers . . . And in doing so, we think, they would not only be justified but also impelled by necessity . . . A lynching, in its least reprehensible and original form, differs but little from the legal process and more in technical than in real aspects. Care is taken to prove guilt and identity of the accused and execution of the sentence is carried out with a minimum of cruelty and a maximum of orderly dispatch . . . Such were the "lynchings" of the old western vigilantes and of the necessity-driven southerners . . . In the south judges were men who had served in that capacity and were well qualified for the responsibility, and the men who served in other capacities were equal to, and perhaps superiors in some respects, to those who might have served on juries in formal courts. Lynchings of this type are about extinct . . . The survivals are patterned but roughly on the original model . . . but, it seems to us, that the more remote is the resemblance the less accurate is the term "lynching".

Too, there is historical basis for the belief that "lynching," as distinguished from private vengeance, is marked by the degree to which there is an organized or quasi-community effort to enforce justice, however crude, distorted, or abused the effort may be in practice . . . Private vengeance we have had in the south in great plenty, from ancient times, and antedating the high frequency of lynchings by hundreds of years . . . Time was when a man reached for his rifle or knife and went into action when he learned of an attack upon, or a real or fancied wrong done to, one of his kindred . . . This practice, too, remains with us, although falling rapidly in frequency . . . It was such an act of private vengeance when the brothers of a woman slew the man who was accused of her murder in Kentucky a few years ago . . . But we do not recall that the incident was classified as a lynching even though the victim was suspected of a crime and was in the custody of law enforcement officers at the time.

We recall a North Carolina case in which the grandfather of a young girl walked into the jail and shot a young white man held there as her seducer . . . Was that a lynching? . . . No one spoke of it as such.

All of these forms of homicide are murder although, unwritten law may mitigate the penalties provided by statute law in certain circumstances . . . But the purpose of the Tuskeegee Instistute is not to compile the murders committed in the south . . . It is to compile the lynchings only.

We have no doubt that the institute has acted in good faith . . . But if the south has so far reduced actual lynchings, as to make it difficult to find authentic cases, we think it would encourage those, who have been working to that end, to show the gain in the statistics . . . If other forms of murder, which have not been classified as lynchings heretofore, are to be included now, there can be no fair basis of comparison as with past years, unless the entire record from beginning to end be revised and other murder types added to the figures for each year . . . Large as are the numbers of lynchings recorded in the unruly years between 1870 and 1900, we have no doubt that the inclusion of the figures on private vengeance murders when the victims were in custody or had been suspected of crime, would double, at least, the totals now accepted as they have been published.

Savannah, Ga., News
July 11, 1939

Prevention of Lynching

Some interesting facts with reference to lynchings, which are gradually decreasing, are furnished the Morning News by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, with headquarters in Atlanta. The executive director says: "I haven't evidence enough to sustain my conclusions, but indications are that there is a disposition on the part of statistical agencies which give out the number of lynchings annually and semi-annually to include the violent death of a negro at the hands of one white man as a lynching. Even though the number of lynchings under this interpretation may remain fairly uniform with that of past years, nevertheless, we of the association do believe that the gradual elimination of mobs in this type of lynching denotes such progress in our educational program that our Southern courts supported by public opinion will, with increasing frequency, convict white men for the murder of a negro."

This organization of women is performing a valuable service to the South and the nation in carrying forward its program of education to prevent lynching. The association believes, and the success thus far attained justifies this belief, that a continuous program of education in the home, in the school, in the press, and in the church will end lynching by public demand. The association emphasizes the falseness of the claim that lynchings are necessary to the protection of Southern white women.

Charlotte, N. C., News
July 9, 1939

Errors In Reporting Lynching Record

Dear Sir:

You will be interested in certain facts which seem to be developing as a result of the decreasing number of lynchings during the past eighteen months. I haven't evidence enough to sustain my conclusions, but indications are that there is a disposition on the part of statistical agencies which give out the number of lynchings annually and semi-annually to include the violent death of a Negro at the hands of one white man as a lynching.

Even though the number of lynchings under this interpretation may remain fairly uniform with that of past years, nevertheless, we of the Association do believe that the gradual elimination of mobs in this type of lynching denotes such progress in our educational program that our Southern courts supported by public opinion will, with increasing frequency, convict white men for the murder of a Negro.

For your information I am enclosing a record of lynchings and prevented lynchings for the first six months of 1939. This record in a way makes the statistics much more personal since you are able to check the rank of your own state and possibly your own county.

JESSIE DANIEL AMES,
Executive Director, Ass'n of Southern Women For the Prevention of Lynching.
Atlanta.

PENSACOLA FLA NEWS
WEDNESDAY MAR 29 1939

Women Of South Fight Lynching

PROTECTION of southern womanhood is the usual excuse given for lynchings, but the women of the South for eight years now have been strenuously opposing mob violence and recently have voiced the conviction that their work must be accentuated.

The work of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is one of the most hope-inspiring movements in the Southern states and is the only one which deals with the problem in a sane and wholesome manner. These women, members of churches, clubs, Y. W. C. A.'s and other organizations, are not seeking to have any law passed to prevent lynching. They are going at it in a much more fundamental manner—the education of the people of their states to show the injustices which are committed in the name of chivalry. Coming from those who supposedly are being protected by the mobsters their statements are attracting national attention.

Twelve women who started the movement in 1930 have grown to 39,391 now and they have enlisted the aid of 2,090 men and 1,229 officers of the law in their endeavor. Their effort is summed up in the following pledge which they ask be signed:

"Lynching is an indefensible crime, destructive of all principles of government, hateful and hostile to every ideal of religion and humanity, debasing and degrading to every person involved. Though lynchings are not confined to any one section of the United States, we are roused by the record which discloses our heavy responsibility for the presence of this crime in our country. We believe that this record has been achieved because public opinion has accepted too easily the claim of lynchers and mobsters that they were acting solely in the defense of womanhood. In the light of facts, this claim can no longer be used as a protection to those who lynch. We pledge ourselves to create a new public opinion in the South which will not condone for any reason whatever acts of mobs or lynchers."

The usual thought when a correction of a social evil is sought is that "there ought to be a law against it." Of course there have been laws against lynchings for years but their enforcement was winked at by sheriffs and other officers who lacked the stamina to oppose mobs of their constituents. But these women do not want the federal anti-lynching law which has so often been debated in congress. They reaffirm their policy in this regard by saying:

"The Association of Southern Women does not support federal legislation to eradicate lynching. The association believes that the slow process of educating society to recognize and abhor the evils out of which lynchings grow is the only sure way to stop lynching. The association places its major emphasis on exposing and repudiating the claim that the protection of white womanhood motivates lynchers. In eight years, almost forty thousand Southern women have committed themselves in writing to carry out a program of education against lynching for any cause. Thirteen national and Southern organizations and eighty-three state organizations in thirteen Southern states have adopted active programs against lynching in their constituencies. Each year activities of State Associations of Southern Women have been successful in preventing threatened lynchings."

That they have made progress with enforcement officers is shown by the record of lynchings in 1938 in which it is reported officers prevented lynchings in 42 instances. The report follows:

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 6 persons lynched in 1938. This is 2 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hands of the law; the bodies of two of the victims were burned.

There were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern states and 39 in Southern states. In 41 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other instance, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons, 3 white men, 49 negro men, and 1 negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 6 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Louisiana, 1; and Mississippi, 3.

Athens Ga. Banner-Herald
March 30, 1939

AN INJUSTICE TO THE SOUTH

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching has just issued a booklet, with charts incorporated showing the number of lynchings and the states in which these outrages were committed. According to the report of this association there were only six lynchings, one each in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and three in Mississippi. This report was for the year of 1938, but the report is so incomplete it is absolutely worthless insofar as facts are concerned. These ladies, with the best of intentions, no doubt, have been imposed upon for the reason that they did not include in the report the number of lynchings that occurred in Chicago and New York, alone in 1938. These cities furnished several times the number of "lynching-bees" than did all the southern states for the same period of time, yet no mention was made of these crimes. Evidently, these good ladies do not consider it a lynching, unless the victim be a negro, but we must remember and keep the record straight that the lynching of a white man by an angry mob of gangsters is just as much a violation of the law as is the lynching of a negro in a southern state.

We are mindful that these southern ladies, organized for the purpose of eradicating, as far as possible, the crime of lynching, and they should remember that lynchings in other sections of the country are just as serious and just as much a violation of the law as a lynching in the southern states for the crime of rape.

Before this association of southern women issues another report, we trust that they will undertake to secure the records, compiled from statistics of all states showing the number of lynchings, irrespective of the crime committed. When that is done, justice to the South will have been obtained, but under the present system of this association, a fair-minded public will not concur in its reports.

Spartanburg S C Herald
March 29, 1939

Women Oppose Lynching

The southern states have an association o women organized for the prevention of lynching. At a recent convention composed of delegates from thirteen states the association reaffirmed its policy as follows:

"The Association of Southern Women doe not support federal legislation to eradicat lynching. The association believes that th slow process of educating society to recogniz and abhor the evils out of which lynchings grow is the only sure way of stopping lynching. The association places its major emphasis on exposing and repudiating the claim that the protection of white womanhood motivates lynchers In eight years almost forty thousand southern women have committed themselves in writing to carry out a program against lynching fo any cause. Thirteen national and southern organizations and 83 organizations in thirteen southern states have adopted active program against lynching."

The association deserves the thanks of the people of the South. Its members have set an example to the men of the South which, if followed by them, will make the enactment of federal legislation wholly unnecessary and will remove a stigma from the southern states.

Clearwater, Fla. Sun
April 2, 1939

COUNCIL APPEALS TO CONE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 1.—(UP)—Mrs. Henry Havens, chairman of the Florida council, Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching today called on Governor Cone to take prompt measures to punish the lynchers of Miles W. Brown at Panama City.

Pensacola Fla. News
March 29, 1939

Women Of South Fight Lynching

PROTECTION of southern womanhood is the usual excuse given for lynchings but the women of the South for eight years now have been strenuously opposing mob violence and recently have voiced the conviction that their work must be accentuated.

The work of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is one of the most hope-inspiring movements in the Southern states and is the only one which deals with the problem in a sane and wholesome manner. These women, members of churches, clubs, Y. W. C. A.'s and other organizations, are not seeking to have any law passed to prevent lynching. They are going at it in a much more fundamental manner—the education of the people of their states to show the injustices which are committed in the name of chivalry. Coming from those who supposedly are being protected by the mobsters their statements are attracting national attention.

Twelve women who started the movement in 1930 have grown to 39,391 now and they have enlisted the aid of 2,090 men and 1,229 officers of the law in their endeavor. Their effort is summed up in the following pledge which they ask be signed:

"Lynching is an indefensible crime, destructive of all principles of government hateful and hostile to every ideal of religion and humanity, debasing and degrading to every person involved. Though lynchings are not confined to any one section of the United States, we are roused by the record which discloses our heavy responsibility for the presence of this crime in our country. We believe that this record has been achieved because public opinion has accepted too easily the claim of lynchers and mobsters that they were acting solely in the defense of womanhood. In the light of facts, this claim can no longer be used as a protection to those who lynch. We pledge ourselves to create a new public opinion in the South which will not condone for any reason whatever acts of mobs or lynchers."

The usual thought when a correction of a social evil is sought is that "there ought to be a law against it." Of course there have been laws against lynchings for years but their enforcement was winked at by sheriffs and other officers who lacked the stamina to oppose mobs of their constituents. But these women do not want the federal anti-lynching law which has so often been debated in congress. They reaffirm their policy in this regard by saying:

"The Association of Southern Women does not support federal legislation to eradicate lynching. The association believes that the slow process of educating society to recognize and abhor the evils out of which lynchings grow is the only sure way to stop lynching. The association places its major emphasis on exposing and repudiating the claim that the protection of white womanhood motivates lynchers. In eight years, almost forty thousand Southern women have committed themselves in writing to carry out a program of education against lynching for any cause. Thirteen national and Southern organizations and eighty-three state organizations in thirteen Southern states have adopted active programs against lynching in their constituencies. Each year activities of State Associations of Southern Women have been successful in preventing threatened lynchings."

That they have made progress with enforcement officers is shown by the record of lynchings in 1938 in which it is reported officers prevented lynchings in 42 instances. The report follows:

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 6 persons lynched in 1938. This is 2 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936 and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. None of the persons lynched was in the hands of the law; the bodies of two of the victims were burned.

There were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern states and 39 in Southern states. In 41 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other instance, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons, 3 white men, 49 negro men, and 1 negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 6 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Louisiana, 1; and Mississippi, 3.

Albany, Ga., Herald
May 27, 1939

Institute Planned For Prevention Of Lynching

Georgia Council of Association Sponsors District Meeting Here Monday.

A district institute will be held here Monday by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, Georgia Council, it was announced today. The meeting will open at 10 o'clock in the First Presbyterian church.

The morning session will include talks by Mrs. W. A. Turner of Newnan and Mrs. M. E. Tilly of Atlanta on "How Far is Georgia Educated Against Lunching?" Miss Emily Woodward of Atlanta will lead a forum on "The Relation of Poverty and Social Maladjustment to Lynching." Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames will discuss "Three Sides to Lynching" and the Rev. J. Ed Fain will speak on "Building a Society Based Upon the Living Principles of Christ."

In the afternoon Dr. Arthur Roper of Atlanta will speak on "The Origin and Causes of Lynching" and Mrs. H. R. Carter of Columbus will discuss "Caring of Neglected Youth:" A round-table discussion will follow. Subjects will be "Community Needs as a Sheriff Sees Them" and "Ways of Preventing Lynching." The afternoon session will begin at 2 o'clock.

The public is invited to attend both sessions. Denominations in this district have been asked to send representatives to the conference.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
DISCUSSION

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN WOMEN FOR THE PREVENTION OF LYNCHING

Birmingham Ala. Age-Herald
January 27, 1939

ANTI-LYNCH GROUP ASKS RADIO CARS

ATLANTA, Jan. 26—(AP)—Mrs Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, said Thursday establishment of radio-equipped state police patrols in all Southern states would be a major 1939 objective of the organization.

Opening the annual two-day meeting, Mrs. Ames said the association "wants every Southern state to have radio police patrols because they can mobilize so much quicker" in cases of emergency. She said Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina had no radios in their state patrols, and that Florida and Kentucky had no patrols.

Mississippi, Georgia and Florida, she said, usually had one or more lynchings a year.

She said the association would not itself sponsor legislation to install radio-equipped patrols throughout the South, but that it would "cooperate with any organization working for it" in each state.

Southerners, she said, are more conscious of lynching now than ever before. While declining to comment on a proposed anti-lynch measure before Congress, she said she believed it "has served to make us much more lynch-conscious."

Six lynchings last year, R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Southern Inter-Racial Commission, said was the lowest number since 1882. He attributed the decrease to work of various organizations, newspapers and churches which tended to create a "better public opinion."

Johnson City Tenn. Press
January 27, 1939

Wo[illegible] A[illegible]ynching Gr[illegible] To[illegible] Of Rescues

ATLANTA, Jan. 27. (AP)—Addresses by two newspaper executives on "the strength and the weakness of law in a democracy" headed today's closing session of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The speakers were Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times, and Executive Editor Ralph McGill of the Atlanta Constitution.

In an address last night, Major Phil Brewster, commissioner of public safety for Georgia, cited instances in which state highway patrolmen rescued negroes from groups intent on violence.

He related one case in which patrolmen rescued a negro from 1,500 persons in a north Georgia town and escorted him safely to Atlanta. Again, he said, a patrolman wounded by a negro he subsequently captured eluded the captive's pursuers and took him to a jail in another section.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the group, said the major aim of the association in 1939 would be establishment of radio-equipped police patrols in all southern states.

Gadsden Ala. Times
January 27, 1939

McGill Declares Education Needed To Stop Lynching

Says Legislation Would Only Complicate Situation

ATLANTA, Jan. 27.—(AP)—Education, and not legislation, is needed to bring about control of the crime of lynching, Ralph McGill, executive editor of the Atlanta Constitution, told members of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching here today.

Sharing a luncheon program with Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times, McGill said headway has been made.

"It is largely a Southern job," he said, "and the South is doing that job through education, the ramifications of public opinion and the strengthening of law enforcement bodies. I am sure this will be a stronger force than any legislation we might enact.

"There is no need to interrupt it with legislation which would have an unfortunate reaction and which, in all probability, would create an entirely new form of mob violence which would be all the more sinister in that it would be driven more deeply underground in its work."

McGill said it was "unfortunate anti-lynching legislation cannot grow out of sources which are not political," and cannot be considered rationally.

But in recent years, he said, there has been a steady decrease in the number of lynchings," and we have seen the moral fibre of law enforcement slowly but steadily grow stronger, and public opinion grow more firmly molded. We have seen the old argument in favor of lynching disappear."

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
January 28, 1939

WOMEN INDORSE LYNCH SUBSTITUTE

Recommend Compromise on Wagner Bill; Hear Ralph McGill on Subject

ATLANTA, Jan. 27—(AP)—A group of Southern women here today accepted as "a constructive step" a proposed substitute for the Wagner anti-lynching bill.

The association of Southern women for the prevention of lynching said it had been informed the compromise bill, "has been suggested by Vice President John Garner, with the indorsement of President Roosevelt," and "provides for investigation by the federal bureau of investigation of lynchings and other forms of mob violence and public report of the same to Congress."

A resolution approved further stated that "this body is of the opinion that such a measure will be a constructive step in the eradication of the evils of mob violence."

Shortly before approving the resolution the group heard two widely known Southern newspaper men, Ralph McGill, executive editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times of Louisville, Ky., discuss the subject.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
January 27, 1939

RADIO CARS URGED AS LYNCHING CURB

Southern Women to Advocate Sets for State Patrols as Part of 1939 Program

ATLANTA, Jan. 26 (AP).—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, said today establishment of radio-equipped state police patrols in all southern states would be a major 1939 objective of the organization.

Opening the annual two-day meeting, Mrs. Ames said the association "wants every southern state to have radio police patrols because they can mobilize so much quicker" in cases of emnrgency. She said Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina had no radios in their state patrols, and that Florida and Kentucky had no patrols.

Mississippi, Georgia and Florida, she said, usually had one or more lynchings a year.

Associate to Co-operate

She said the association would not itself sponsor legislation to install radio-equipped patrols throughout the south, but that it would "co-operate with any organization working for it" in each state.

Southerners, she said, are more conscious of lynching now than ever before. While declining to comment on a proposed anti-lynching measure before congress, she said she believed it "has served to make us much more lynch-conscious."

Six lynchings last year, R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Southern Inter-Racial commission, said, was the lowest number since 1882. He attributed the decrease to work of various organizations, newspapers and churches which tended to create a "better public opinion."

Mrs. Atwood Martin, of Louisville, Ky., will preside at a luncheon meeting of the association tomorrow. Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times will address tomorrow's session. Ralph McGill, executive editor of the Atlanta Constitution, also will speak at tomorrow's meeting.

The organization was told tonight of the work of the state highway patrol in Georgia in rescuing Negroes from mob violence.

Several instances in which state troopers took Negroes from groups intent on violence were described by Maj. Phil Brewster, commissioner of public safety for Georgia.

Two Rescues Related

In one disturbance, he said, patrolmen seized a Negro from 1,500 angry citizens in a north Georgia town and rushed him to Atlanta. In another case, a highway patrolman risked his life in a gun battle with a Negro, capturing him before a crowd of pursuers reached the spot. The patrolman was wounded in the battle, but managed to escape the pursuers with his captive and take him to jail in another section.

Brewster told the women it was hoped the state highway patrol would be given radio communication facilities within the next few months.

Chattanooga. Tenn., Daily Times
January 28, 1939

Dixie Women Favor Antilynch Bill; McGill, Ethridge Debate Question

By the Associated Press.

ATLANTA, Jan. 27.—A group of southern women here today accepted as "a constructive step" a proposed substitute for the Wagner antilynching bill.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching said it had been informed the compromise bill "has been suggested by Vice-President John Garner, with the indorsement of President Roosevelt" and "provides for investigation by the federal bureau of investigation of lynchings and other forms of mob violence and public report of the same to congress."

A resolution approved further stated that "this body is of the opinion that such a measure will be a constructive step in the eradication of the evils of mob violence."

Shortly after approving the resolution the group heard two widely known southern newspapermen, Ralph McGill, executive editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier Journal and the Louisville Times, of Louisville, Ky., discuss the subject.

Ethridge said he favored the Wagner antilynching bill on six specific grounds, while McGill said the lynching problem was a "southern job" to be solved by education and the building of public opinion rather than by legislation.

Ethridge said he favored enactment of the proposed law, which would assess fines against counties in which lynchings occur, first, as a declaration of national policy—an affirmation that Americans, as a people, "do not tolerate a form of barbarism that is only a little more refined than cannibalism."

McGill, although opposing federal legislation, said he did not see how the southern states "can successfully oppose the antilynching bill on grounds of state rights, while willing to abdicate state rights on grounds of roads, crop relief and other forms of federal aid."

He said the control of lynching "is largely a southern job, and the south is doing that job through education, the building up of stronger public opinion and the strengthening of law enforcement bodies.

"I am sure this will be a stronger force than any legislation we might enact," he said.

McGill said also he saw "no need to interrupt with legislation" strides that have been made against lynching in the south." Such legislation might well "create an entirely new form of mob violence which would be all the more sinister in that it would be driven more deeply underground in its work," he said.

He cited figures showing a steady decrease in the number of lynchings in recent years and said, "We have seen the moral fiber of law enforcement slowly but steadily grow stronger and the public opinion grow more firmly molded against lynching."

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 27, 1939

WOMEN HEAR HOW MOBS WERE HALTED

Major Brewster Tells of State Troopers Preventing Lynchings.

By The Associated Press.

Southern women who form an organization to prevent lynchings were told last night of the work of the state highway patrol in Georgia in rescuing negroes from mob violence.

Several instances in which state troopers took negroes from groups intent on violence were described before the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching by Major Phil Brewster, commissioner of public safety for Georgia.

In one disturbance, he said, patrolmen seized a negro from 1,500 angry citizens in a north Georgia town and spirited him to Atlanta. In another case, a highway patrolman risked his life in a gun battle with a negro, capturing him before a crowd of pursuers reached the spot. The patrolman was wounded in the battle but managed to elude the pursuers with his captive and take him to jail in another section.

Bhewster told the women it was hoped the state highway patrol would be given radio communication facilities within the next few months to provide a quicker method of assembling officers for emergencies.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the group, said establishment of radio-equipped state police patrols in all southern states would be the major objective of the association this year.

The director said the anti-lynch bill now before congress had "served to make us more lynch conscious."

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Southern Interracial Commission, reported lynchings in 1938 numbered only six, the smallest figure since 1882. He said the improvement was due to work of newspapers, churches and other organizations.

Mrs. Atwood Martin, of Louisville, Ky., will preside at a luncheon meeting of the association today. Mark Etheridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times, will address today's session. Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Atlanta Constitution, also will speak at today's meeting.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
DISCUSSION

HISTORICAL

6186

Clanton, Ala., Banner
March 30, 1939

25 YEARS AGO

News Items As Published in The Union-Banner
— Issue of —
March 26, 1914

Negro Lynched Last Saturday

On last Saturday night about 9 o'clock about two miles west of Clanton Chas. Young, a negro man about twenty years of age, was suspended from a limb of a large oak tree with a rope around his neck, and his body literally riddled by bullets, at the hands of a violent mob of unknown parties. Young was lynched for a terrible crime which he committed early Saturday morning, in which he brutally assaulted Mrs. Andrew Wilson, a white lady about sixty years old, and wounded her very severely by attempts to take her life and rob the house.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
DISCUSSIONS

NEGRO PRESS, NORTHERN

6173

"Hang A Jew In Germany And America Weeps! Hang A Negro in America And America Sleeps!--

By NANNIE H. BURROUGHS

Courier 7-22-39
Pittsburgh Pa

The tide of race prejudice is rising in the old world. What thinks America of the success of this . . her pet . . industry.

Up to now, she has had a monopoly on the business. She nurtured, propagated, developed and sold her race prejudice at home and exported it to every land under the sun.

Now she has competitors in Mussolini and Hitler. America is shocked, horrified, disgusted and heartbroken over the indignities and horrors that are now being [illegible] upon the Jews in Germany.

Mussolini's cold-blooded, barbarous assault, ruthless plunder and raw handed rape of Ethiopia did not move Christian America to lift her voice above a whisper, but the chastening of the Jews by Hitler has aroused the nation to "righteous indignation."

America is on the (bloodless) warpath. She condemns race oppression, in Germany, in the strongest language, and in a voice so loud that she is heard around the world. Distance seems to intensify her interest in the welfare of the Jews in Germany. But, how clean are her own hands? How sweet her own breath? The practice and belief in race prejudice is an "ism" and it is just as destructive to the life of Democracy as the cultivation of fascism, or communism.

The American pulpit, press, radio . . everything that hath breath . . is out front or up on the house-top, crying aloud against persecution in Germany on account of race. HANG A JEW IN GERMANY AND AMERICA WEEPS! HANG A NEGRO IN AMERICA AND AMERICA SLEEPS! . .

This is the first time that any so-called civilized country has excelled America in ignoring the Sixth Commandment, and in trampling the gospel of brotherhood under foot in dealing with the race question.

Is it wrong? YES. A Thousand Times YES! But it is as wrong to hound one race as it is another. Race is a basis of limitation, persecution, exploitation, disfranchisement and mob murder in America. There are a few Americans who hang their heads in shame over this country's lynch record. . .

The unfortunate thing is that America exports her democratic ideals and keeps her race prejudice for home consumption.

Hitler tells the world that his brand of freedom is for Germans only. America has been telling the world that her brand is for nordics only. What is the difference, It is a case of the beam and the mote. Germany's treatment of Jews is wrong. America's treatment of the Negro is not right. It is not democratic. It is not Christian. It is not DECENT.

American Democracy is shackled with discriminatory laws and practices. If the chastening of the Jews by Germany results in the Christianization and democratization of America on the race question, then the results, though tragically wicked and staggeringly high, will be worth the price. The tide of Democracy will rise in every section.

After all, God has only one purpose for all races on this planet His supreme purpose is to civilize the human race and to make brotherhood real. He is going to do it, in spite of the cost. . .

DeLand, Fla., Sun News
May 2, 1939

JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED

Volusia's first lynching, if it may be termed that, in 50 years or more, leaves a black mark on the name of this county which should be eliminated by the proper dispensation of justice. A Negro was accused of running over and killing a young Daytona Beach lad with his automobile last Saturday morning. That afternoon, en route to DeLand in custody of Constable Jim Durden, the Negro was shot and killed.

According to Durden's testimony two brothers of the youngster who was killed perpetrated the deed. It remains for investigative officers to determine the real facts in the case.

Looking at it from any angle it is an unhappy situation. The Negro may have been operating his automobile recklessly when he struck and killed the child, but that forms no sound basis for the violence which followed. The law was taking its course, as was apparent by the fact that Durden was transferring his prisoner to the Volusia County jail.

On the other hand we can understand the attitude of the brothers of the young victim. Grieving over the death of a loved one, they no doubt felt that if the Negro was brought to trial on a manslaughter charge he would receive at the most, a sentence of 20 years in the state penitentiary, and probably would be pardoned or paroled within a few years.

However, Volusia County and the state of Florida cannot tolerate the taking of the law from the hands of officers, and its dispensation by individuals. If this is permitted it will not be long before injustices become numerous.

Although one cannot but sympathize to a certain extent with the two men who reputedly killed the Negro taxi driver it is imperative that our officers see that the law is fairly administered in the case, and if charges are filed against the pair, that they be given a trial before a fair and impartial jury.

Irrespective of the outcome of such a trial, it is only in this manner that the reputation of Volusia County and the state of Florida may be maintained among our neighbors in the other 47 states of the union.

DeLand, Fla., Sun News
April 12, 1939

Lynching Site Of 90's Cut Down Here

A gruesome landmark of the city fell under the wheels of progress this week when WPA workers on the DeLand moss removal project cut down several oak trees on W. Rich Ave., just west of Florida Ave., according to pioneer residents in the vicinity.

One of the trees marked the spot where an angry mob in the middle '90s lynched a Negro after spiriting him from the county jail.

Columbia S C Record
May 2, 1939

Two Man Lynching.

The killing of Lee Snell, negro taxi driver, by two men near Daytona Beach, Fla., Saturday afternoon was not by all the statutory definitions a lynching. It takes more than two men, the definitions have it, to make a mob.

But the slaying none the less partakes of some of the elements of a lynching. The negro, being taken to jail to await a hearing on manslaughter charges growing out of the death of a little boy run over and fatally injured by Snell's taxi earlier in the day, had been arrested and was a prisoner at the time of his death. The state of Florida was under obligation to protect him and failed to do it; what two men did a mob could have done. And the two slayers were not arrested; the constable who watched them shoot down his prisoner did not attempt to arrest them and county police explain that they must await the result of the inquest, although of course they did not await the result of the inquest before arresting the negro taxi driver.

Perhaps it might just as well therefore be called a lynching; the state of Florida is also made a victim by it as well as the slain negro.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ILLINOIS AND FLORIDA

Several days ago a Negro taxi driver was lynched in Florida because he accidentally ran over a twelve year old white boy. The victim was shot by the two brothers of the dead boy and they informed the constable in whose custody the lynched man was being taken away for safe keeping "we will see you after the funeral."

Birmingham

To date nothing has been done to bring the two slayers to justice, and yet Florida is supposed to be a civilized state and their United States Senators have told Congress that it could deal properly with lynchings.

5-11-39

Several weeks ago in Urbana, Illinois, a Negro woman shot to death a white college student because he, along with four of his friends—all of whom had been drinking — insisted on hurling beer bottles through her window because she would not let them enter her house. This she was forced to do in order to protect her life and property.

Des Moines

University officials raised a howl about vice in the city charging city officials with failure to clean up immoral places near the campus. This Negro woman was indicted for murder and tried by a jury, and while the facts are not available, it is fair to assume that all of them were white. This jury returned a verdict of not guilty. The woman is free and to date no commotion seems to have transpired as a result of the outcome of the trial.

What a difference in the two situations? In the Florida case the mob ruled. Due process of law as guaranteed by the constitution was entirely absent from Florida. In the latter case due process of law as contemplated by the constitution, exemplified in an orderly trial in the courts prevailed.

This illustrates the necessity for federal anti-lynching legislation and unfortunately brands such a measure as sectional legislation.

MOB RULE UPHELD

The two white men in Florida who shot to death a Negro taxicab driver, who accidently ran down and killed their brother, have been acquited in the circuit court of Deland in spite of the fact that the prisoner was in the custody of the constable at the time he was shot. It appears that their acquittal came about because of the lack of identification. Of course, anybody acquainted with mob ruled communities know that this was not the case. They just simply did not want to go on record of convicting a white man for slaying a Negro under these circumstances.

No doubt the matter will be dropped. The men cannot be tried again but it does prove that the people of the state are unwilling to put down mob rule and the federal government does not have the courage to take a hand.

However, this case is accumulative evidence that some states will not put down mob rule, and that a federal anti-lynching bill is necessary before any assurance can be given that people who insist on taking the laws into their own hands will be punished.

LYNCHINGS-1939
DISCUSSIONS

NEGRO PRESS, NORTHERN

6174

White Man Lynched

Tribune

THE third lynching victim for 1939 was not a colored man or woman, but a white man, who was taken by force early in the morning from a Florida jail, shot to death and left lying on a country roadside.

That the lynchers were not all of the average type which engages in this purely American activity was indicated by the fact that the sheriff, who was bound and gagged, described two of the men who held him as having "very soft hands."

The lynched man had been given a life sentence for abducting, murdering and robbing his well-to-do employee. Evidently, the lynchers thought that the sentence was not severe enough.

The moral is plain: When lawlessness is winked at because the victim is a defenseless and despised colored person, it gains strength; and because Injustice, like Justice, is blind, unchecked lawlessness crosses the color line and spends its unholy force on a member of the dominant group.

The fact that the hands of two of the lynchers were "very soft" indicates that men who ordinarily would not participate in a lynching bee did so, since they knew that they would not be brought to justice.

Governor Of Florida Asked To Act In 3rd Lynching Of The Year

Age
4-15-39

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Governor Fred P. Cone, of Florida was urged to show "vigorous action" in bringing to justice the persons responsible for the lynching of Miles W. Brown, a white man, in Panama City, Fla. Saturday, April 1, the third victim of lynching mobs this year.

The Florida Governor was called upon to bring the lynchers to justice in a telegram sent him by the Washington branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Signed by Dr. C. Herbert Marshall, president of the branch, the wire reads as follows:

"Senators Pepper and Andrews gave assurance during the anti-lynching filibuster (in January and February, 1938) that Florida could well take care of the problem of lynching. Millions of Americans await your vigorous action to secure apprehension, conviction and punishment of the lynchers of Miles W. Brown."

Brown was taken from his jail cell by a band of men early on the morning of April 1, dragged to the edge of town, and there shot in the back of the head. Brown had been convicted in the killing of his employer, Roy Van Kleeck, a wealthy hardware merchant of the town, after kidnapping him and taking $1500 from the merchant's wallet. A jury had recommended mercy for Brown who had not confessed the crime for which he was convicted, on examination of the evidence.

White Man Lynched, NAACP Urges Justice

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The Florida governor was called upon to bring the lynchers to justice in a telegram sent him April 1 by the Washington Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

NO COLOR LINE HERE

Last week Florida reversed the usual procedure and lynched a white man. In fact that state bore out further the late Booker T. Washington's predictions that in his time Negroes only were being lynched; the time would come when white men would be lynched.

Bystander

In this instance the defendant had been tried and given his sentence. Evidently the mob was not satisfield with the punishment given by the court and determined that it knew better what should have been done when they took the prisoner from the jail and lynched him.

As usual, the members of the mob have not been identified and if left to the state nothing will be done about the matter.

When the anti-lynching bill was before Congress southern senators agreed that there was no need for federal legislation on lyching as local authorities were capable of handling the situation. This agreement had great weight with senators coming from communities where law and order, what ever the circumstances, is the rule.

Unfortunate as this lynching was, it goes to prove further that lynching is not a Negro problem, that the states have not been able to cope with the situation; that lawlessness is no respector of persons.

WOMEN TO LOBBY IN WASHINGTON

Guardian
5-20-39

Action against lynching in Boston will take a concrete form within a few weeks when a newly-formed lobbying committee of local young women leave this city for Washington to lobby in behalf of the Wagner-Van Nuys Bill.

The group of women are members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and have been given the task of following local and national legislation during the coming year. Included on the visit to the United States Congress will be Theresa Lee, Attorney Rowena Taylor, Beryl Robinson and Olga Jackson.

While ani-lynching action will be the major objective of the women, they will attempt action while in the Capitol on better and fairer civil service regulations, more equitable distribution of federal funds, equalization of educational opportunities and aid to sharecroppers.

BEST EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

Plaindealer

LYNCHING MARCHES ON

America is still beset with the evil of lynching. Five have already occurred this year -- two in Florida, and Arkansas, Georgia and Mississippi have had one each. These represent cases that have come to the attention of the public. There may be many more of such crimes which have gone undetected. Before 1939 will have ended, the list of slaughtered black men shall have lengthened itself to the horror and disgust of our people. Yet those who are entrusted with the enforcement of the law, those legislators who are sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States, have shown no disposition toward providing a permanent check against lynching.

Kansas City

Many of us are sorely disappointed at the attitude of Congress toward this evil. It is almost incredible that a country as enlightened as America is presumed to be, should show such shocking disinterestedness in the protection of life and property of its black citizens. The lack of sympathy for the plight of America's blacks, coupled with the shameful inability to comprehend the moral and social implications of mob violence, may account for the difficulty which impedes the passage of the federal Anti-Lynch bill. While Southern Congressmen wax eloquent in their defense of the institution of lynching, their northern colleagues have given little evidence of their opposition to what has come to be known as a 'national pastime.'

Some northerners view lynching as a sectional problem whose solution should be left to the states where it prevails. Others feel that their political aspirations would suffer were they to denounce vigorously the burning at stake, the recurrent immolation of the indefensible, helpless southern black man. None of them is courageous enough to risk his political career for a great moral issue.

We believe, however, were the churches with their formidable array of faithful cohorts to mobilize their influences against the emotional frenzy of mob violence, public sentiment would be so stirred that no representative of the people, whether from North or South, East or West, would dare remain silent on the question.

America appears impervious yet to both the psychological and legal effects of the rule by mobs. There is something pathologically wrong with a society that speaks of Christian brotherhood and collective Democracy, while the innocent blood of its own members drips from its hands. Are we a nation of conscienceless morons; or are we enlightened Christians, but lacking courage to practice our Christianity?—Chicago Defender.

NEUTRALITY AND LYNCHING

Age

9-20-39

WITH CONGRESS, called into special session by President Roosevelt to amend neutrality legislation and consider other legislation dealing with national welfare as result of the second World War now raging in Europe, one is wont to stop and ask the question: "What of the Negro?"

The New York Age is in complete agreement with those who believe that under the present neutrality legislation and arms embargo it is well nigh impossible for the United State to stay out of war. Moreover, the present legislation, which forbids the shipment of arms, is unsatisfactory and against the best interests of our natural allies, Great Britain and France.

We, all of us, can say that we are neutral but deep down in our hearts our sympathies go out to England and France in their fight against the spreading menace of Nazism and all the other isms, but with the present neutrality legislation as it stands on the books we are powerless to be of any material aid. Furthermore, if the present war is long drawn out, and it appears it will be, we see no way that we can stay out of it despite all efforts to the contrary.

Let Congress, then, amend the legislation as it relates to war materials. Let us be unequivocal on the matter. Let us inform all nations, belligerent and otherwise, that the United States will sell any and all materials and goods, IF those nations come forth with the necessary cash in front and use their own ships to pick up and transport the goods away from these shores. What happens afterwards off our coast line is of no concern to us as international law is rather specific on that point. If the United States receives cash in advance for what it sells, without making reservations as to which countries it sells, it will be maintaining neutrality in the strictest sense of the word and will be indirectly helping the peoples of those lands with whom our greatest sympathies are.

A cash and carry plan will give to England, France, Germany or Soviet Russia equal opportunity to purchase whatever materials they may need here. If any of those nations is so bottled up by the navies of other countries as to make it impossible to send ships here to buy our wares that is not our concern. At least all nations will have an equal opportunity to buy, without restrictions, from the United States. That will be strict neutrality. That is what this nation wants. That is what we want the Congress to maintain for us.

And speaking about neutrality and other legislation, if the special session of Congress after disposing of the all-important question should decide to take up other legislation, it stands duty-bound to take up another important question, that of anti-lynching legislation.

This nation can ill-afford to talk about preserving democratic principles elsewhere until it practices real democracy here in the United States and does something to wipe out the shame of the nation—the lynching of Negroes in the South. So long as Negroes are lynched and the federal government does nothing about it, just so long will there fail to be the true democracy about which this country's citizens are too prone to boast of to others. Should this country be drawn into the international conflict now being waged abroad, it will be on the plea that democracy and the democratic form of government are once more endangered. We entered the last war to help make the world safe for democracy and Negroes in our armed forces made a glorious record in the preservation of that democracy. And yet while our boys were abroad, their parents and their children were being lynched by fiends, who pass for humans, right here in this country which is supposed to symbolize democracy at its highest. And when our Negro soldiers returned from the war, they once more were obliged to suffer all the indignities which are heaped upon them because of the color of their skin.

Let us be neutral, if we can, AND let us insure the equal protection of our laws to all of our citizens by passing the anti-lynching legislation which will wipe out the most undemocratic practice in this country today—lynching.

NEW TECHNIQUE HIDES STATE'S MOB MURDERS

Dee

11-5-39

Chicago Def.

See Lynch Bill Fight in Senate

NEW YORK, Nov. 2—The state of Mississippi has had more than 20 unreported lynchings of Negroes this year.

This alarming statement was made by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at a meeting of Columbia university's Women's Faculty club here Sunday afternoon.

New "Technique"

White said that an investigation conducted by the association revealed that Mississippi's mob killings have taken a new "technique." He stated:

"The growing force of the nation-wide condemnation of this crime has driven lynching 'underground.' The new technique is for the mob to appoint a small committee who take the victim off to the swamps and then return to report that everything has been handled satisfactorily."

Mr. White predicted that the anti-lynching bill, now at the top of the Congressional calendar, will pass the House by a 3-to-1 majority vote.

Expect Senate Filibuster

"But in the Senate," he said "we can expect a repetition of the disgraceful filibuster which cost the Amercian taxpayers $461,000 in 1938. The filibuster will be led once again by Connally, of Texas; George, of Georgia; Byrnes, of South Carolina; Ellender, of Louisiana, and other reactionaries who are determined to keep the myth of 'white supremacy' alive no matter what the cost is to the nation."

Rep. Caroline O'Day of New York, who also spoke, said that American citizens must overcome their apathy toward the minority problem faced by the Negro if democracy is to be kept alive in the United States.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
DISCUSSION

NEGRO PRESS, SOUTHERN

6176

Can the States Stop Lynching?

Globe

1-1-39

Nashville

Up to December 15, when this piece is being written, seven lynchings had occurred in America during 1938. It may be that others will be staged before the end of the year, since in some previous years as many as two lynchings have been staged on December 31.

Of the present total of seven, four lynchings occurred in the State of Mississippi, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana had one each.

In no single instance was any action taken by the state looking toward the arrest and conviction of the lynchers. In no single instance was the sheriff or other peace officer even reprimanded for lack of diligence in safeguarding prisoners.

In the six weeks of filibustering last January and February against the Gavagan-Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill in the U. S. Senate, it was asserted repeatedly by southern senators who filibustered against the bill that the southern states could and would act to check the crime of lynching and to punish lynchers.

Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee, one of the leading opponents of the anti-lynching bill, went to the trouble of telegraphing governors of southern states asking them to wire him at the Senate their opinion on a federal anti-lynching bill. This action was the same as cabling Hitler asking his opinion of the Jews; but Senator McKellar read into the Congressional Record the telegrams from southern governors stating unanimously that a federal law was bad and that the states would handle this crime if the job were left to them.

Governor Hugh White of Mississippi was among the first to reply to Senator McKellar. Yet, Governor White has made no move in the four lynchings which his state contributed to the year's total.

Likewise, the governors of Florida, Georgia and Louisiana put themselves on record in the Senate as opposing a federal anti-lynching law and as pledging the powers of their office in a fight against lynching within their own state borders. Not one of them has acted on the lynchings which have taken place, although Georgia, in an unusual outburst of public opinion, rounded up some members of the mob which burned a Negro school in Smyrna, Ga. One member of the mob was sentenced to a year in jail. On the one actual lynching which took place at Arabi, Ga., July 9, the state has done nothing.

One of the seven victims was accused of raping a 74-year-old white woman; one was accused of attempting to criminally assault a white woman in Florida. Absolutely no proof of the Florida assault was made public, not even the usual excuses which some communities offer after a lynching has taken place.

In the case of the aged woman in Mississippi, only the flimsiest excuse was offered and later advices by private investigators have established that the victim was entirely innocent and was lynched only because he had a community reputation for "refusing to stay in a Negro's place" and "refusing to bow and scrape" to the white people.

Two victims were accused of murder; one was lynched for failing to pay a debt; one for being drunk and failing to submit to arrest; and one man was killed by a mob which was hunting for another man.

One victim was burned, one was beaten to death, three were shot, one was hanged and one was hanged and shot.

The first lynching of the year occurred June 10 in Columbus, Miss. Wash Adams, a young Negro, was beaten to death with an iron bar by three young white men because he owed a balance of $10 on the funeral expenses of his wife. (Although this lynching did not appear in the press, detailed information upon it was sent voluntarily to the N. A. A. C. P. by a reputable white attorney in Columbus, Miss.)

The second lynching occurred in Rolling Fork, Miss., July 6, when a mob of 300 persons shot and killed Tom Green, 48, a colored blacksmith. The body was dragged several miles and burned at the spot where Green is alleged to have killed a white planter in an argument over wages.

The third lynching occurred within 72 hours of the second, on July 9, at Arabi, Ga. John Dukes, 60, who had resisted the efforts of a policeman to arrest him for drunkenness and had shot the policeman in a gun duel, was burned by a mob as he lay dying from gunshot wounds.

The fourth lynching occurred in Canton, Miss., July 21, when Claude Banks, a colored motorist, was stopped by a mob which was searching for another man. Banks was shot down during his questioning by the mob.

The fifth victim of the year was Otis Price on August 9 at Perry, Fla. Price was arrested because a white farm woman screamed that a Negro had attempted to assault her. Price was taken from the custody of the sheriff, his body riddled with bullets and his throat cut.

Ruston, La., staged the sixth lynching of the year on October 13 when a mob hanged R. C. Williams, 19, on the assumption that he had killed a white man in a local "lovers' lane" and beaten up the man's woman companion. Investigation of this case by two independent southern white men proves conclusively that Williams was not guilty of the crime. The lynching was one of the most brutal in recent years because the mob tortured Williams with a red hot poker before killing him. Each investigator who has gone to Ruston has asserted that Williams was merely "the goat" to satisfy public sentiment and that the real criminal is known generally in Ruston and particularly by the peace officers.

The seventh lynching of the year occurred in Wiggins, Miss., on November 21. Wilder McGowan, 24 was lynched by a mob of 200 men for the alleged raping of a 74-year-old white woman. Private investigation of this lynching has uncovered strong evidence that McGowan was not guilty of the crime, but was lynched because he had an independent spirit.

The 1938 lynchings bring the total lynchings in the United States from 1882 to date to 5,120.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which again will sponsor a campaign for the passage of a federal anti-lynching law in the 76th Congress opening January 3, cites the 1938 lynching record as additional proof (if any were needed) of the necessity for federal action against lynching. Once more, in 1938, as they have in years past, the states demonstrated that they are unwilling or unable to preserve the guaranties to the individual citizen of due process of law and equal protection of the laws, as provided in the United States Constitution.

Lynching In 1938

From The Raleigh News and Observer

THERE is basis for true Southern pride in the fact, contained in a compilation just made by Tuskegee Institute that there were two less lynchings in 1938 than in either 1937 or 1936 and 14 less than in 1935.

There is basis, too, for gratification in the fact that in 1938 officers of the law prevented lynchings, according to the Negro institution at Tuskegee, in 42 instances. Such a record reflects credit upon the increasing determination of Southern officers to defend the law which it is their duty to enforce.

But these 42 mobs, unsuccessful as they were in their violent purposes, indicate that there are still in the South men who remain ignorant of the meaning of the law as a defense against every type of violence. In a horrible folly they would tear down the law to punish, as they see it, the crime against which the law is the only satisfactory defense.

And from the standpoint of the civilization of the South rescuing members of mobs from such violent folly and ignorance is as important a task as rescuing from them men who along with the law might be victim of their stupid and barbarous anger.

"Virginia's Lynching Law"

Norfolk, Va.

THE Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch quite properly calls attention to our omission of a reference to Virginia's lynching law in our editorial, last week, entitled "The 1938 Lynching Record." We assumed that our Virginia statute, enacted 10 years ago, was a matter of general knowledge; that the Old Dominion is not among the southern states that have anything to do of themselves individually and collectively to effectively suppress mob rule—our state having done this a decade ago. That North Carolina was about to move now, a decade behind Virginia, seemed to be the important thing, inasmuch as North Carolina, in moving now, was leading the sisterhood of southern commonwealths from which Virginia departed in the matter of lynch law a decade ago.

It did not occur to us, as the Ledger-Dispatch pointed out, that North Carolina proposes to copy our Virginia statute in its main essentials. This is reason enough to justify the contention of the Ledger-Dispatch that the leadership in this direction indisputably belongs to Virginia. We are happy to concur in this contention, reserving, of course, the sincerity of our accolade to North Carolina for "pointing the way" in the duty which now rests upon those states which have failed to act as Virginia has done.

"Virginia's Lynching Law"

Journal and Guide 2-4-39 Norfolk Va.

From The Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch

In the course of a discussion of the 1938 lynching record the notably well-edited Journal and Guide, of Norfolk, speaks of the possibility that a Federal anti-lynching act may be an outgrowth of the official records and then says:

Whether it is or not, still remains to be seen. But North Carolina, in the lead as always among her sister states of the Southland, may take steps to make up for the deficiency. In Raleigh last week Attorney General Harry McMullan announced that he might recommend to the Legislature a thorough overhauling of the state's criminal statutes, including the enactment of a strict anti-lynching bill.

Under the Attorney General's proposed plan the bill would set up machinery for prosecuting members of a lynch mob and would provide that they be charged with murder. The new law would also provide compensation for families of persons lynched.

North Carolina again points the way. It is up to the other states to follow.

So far as the State of Virginia is concerned, there need be no pointing of the way in this matter. With all respect for the Attorney General of North Carolina and his plans, the **Ledger-Dispatch** suggests that he as well as its friend **the Journal and Guide**, study the Virginia law on the subject which has been on the statute books since 1928, when it was enacted under Governor Byrd. For ten years Virginia has pointed the way which the Journal and Guide now says North Carolina may point.

In effect, every one of the provisions which Attorney General McMullan has announced he may recommend to North Carolina's General Assembly has been the law in Virginia for more than ten years—with one exception. There is no provision in the Virginia statute for compensation for families of persons lynched. There should not be, we think, for the reason that such a provision would impose an unjust burden upon wholly innocent persons. Suppose the County of Wake, for instance, in North Carolina, were compelled by state law to grant compensation to the family of a colored man who had been lynched. All the colored taxpayers in Wake County, as well as the white ones, would have to contribute their part of that compensation, in the form of taxes or levies.

The Virginia statute provides that every lynching shall be deemed a murder and that every person composing a "mob" or accessory thereto shall be guilty of murder and, upon conviction, shall be punished as prescribed by the statutes on the subject. And it provides that it shall be the duty of the Attorney for the Commonwealth to make prompt and diligent effort to ascertain the identity of persons who in any way participated in the crime and to prosecute them. It further provides that the Attorney for the Commonwealth shall be assisted by the Attorney General or other prosecutors designated by the Governor for the purpose. And it finally provides that the Governor shall have full authority to spend such sums as he may deem necessary for the purpose of seeking out the identity and apprehending the members of "such guilty mob."

This statute, be it noted, was enacted in a state in which the "iniquitous" poll tax prepayment requisite was and is still in effect.

Tarrying With the Mob

Journal and Guide 2-4-39 Norfolk Va.

IN the course of acrid debate in the United States senate on the appointment of ex-Governor Frank Murphy of Michigan as Attorney General, Senator Bailey of North Carolina drew a parallel between the sit-down strikes in Michigan in 1937, which he intimated the ex-governor condoned, and a hypothetical seizure of the United States by a mob. The senator has a perfect parallel in the 1938 six-week filibuster against the anti-lynching measure then under consideration.

Said the Senator: "If we can tarry with a mob that seizes a mill and says it shall not operate, that the members of the mob will not work and no one else shall work, we might tarry with a mob that seized the senate."

Tarrying with the mob, whether in labor organizations, industrial plants, or the social order, invariably brings repercussions that are costly and embarrassing. By tarrying with the mob in North Carolina and other Southern States, kidnapping has become one of the most shameful rackets in the country; interference with the legal machinery set up in Southern courts to dispense justice to those charged with law violations has been dictated by mob psychology; and this tarrying has given mob rule an armour of justification with which to challenge the orderly processes of government.

To stop the spirit and temper of the mob from invading foreign fields, it must be arrested and halted in its native haunt—in the communities and environments where it is permitted to take root and spread; once it crosses the boundary of its nativity it can only be halted by unified action. The seizing of the United States senate by a mob may be a far-fetched vision, but it is one within the realm of possibility. Senator Bailey and his colleagues fighting Federal legislation against lynching and mob rule can aid materially in halting the mob by voting favorably for such legislation.

Rape and Race

Journal and Guide
Norfolk Va.
2-25-39

THE Journal and Guide sent a questionnaire recently to all of the colored lawyers in Virginia and North Carolina who had been practicing more than 20 years, inquiring if in their experience any white men against whom indictments had been returned for rape upon colored women had been convicted. Only one could recall a conviction. He had been practicing 40 years, and he recalled a case that was tried about 30 years ago, in which the defendant was penalized lightly.

This week, in our Norfolk criminal courts, there were tried two actions against Negro men for criminal assault upon girls of their race—one 13 and the other 14 years of age. In both cases the juries disagreed. They could not reach a verdict. In one case the 14 year old child is to become a mother in a few months. In the other case the 13 year-old child testified that her step-father had molested her over a period of two or three years. The child's mother finally caused the arrest of the step-father. Still the jury could not make up its mind to convict, in the face of the evidence.

All of this leads to one inescapable conclusion. In the minds of juries rape is regarded as an offense against white women only. We are forced to the inescapable conclusion that our police departments and prosecuting attorneys are not giving as serious consideration to this aspect of crime as the situation warrants.

The grand jury for the March term of our Corporation court found it necessary to complain to the Court—in open court—that two presentments covering cases of rape in which all the parties were colored were not supported by available material witnesses.

Rape is rape, whether the victim is white or colored, or whether the culprit is white or colored. Last week Governor Price was criticised for pardoning a Negro man who had been convicted for criminally assaulting a colored woman. Discussing the case editorially the Richmond Times Dispatch said:

> "Would the Governor have pardoned Austin if he had been sentenced to life imprisonment for attacking a white girl? It is important that justice be meted out to Negroes convicted of aggression against other Negroes. Otherwise we have a caste system in the administration of justice, and may be placed in the position of condoning violence as long as it remains in the Negro caste."

This is a matter that should receive the serious consideration of those clothed with the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of the courts in Virginia. There is danger that the administration of justice in respect of rape of colored women is approaching indecency, to say nothing of a callousness that is a reproach to those responsible for preparing and prosecuting the cases.

ANTI-LYNCHING ATTITUDE

The early part of the month a young colored man was accused of alleged criminally assaulting a white women at Monroe, this state. He was arrested. The feeling against the accused was intense, led by the usual element with an inclination to inflict summary punishment. Fortunately, in Walton County there can be found a number of citizens who are mindful of the mandates of the law and feel that every accused should be duly tried and the findings of the court be respected. A speedy trial was held, and from reports the accused was legally represented. The evidence was against him and the jury in accordance found him guilty. The judge sentenced him to be electrocuted. In order to safeguard any outburst, sufficient guard was thrown around the courthouse. This had much to do in preventing the more ardent among the lawless element from attempting to reach the convicted man and inflict summary punishment. The people of this community are to be commended for the maintenance of law and order. There may be other communities like this one, but what was done on this occasion should be duplicated elsewhere whenever any aggrevated crime is committed.

[illegible]

Justice Perverted In Florida Court

TWELVE "good" men and "true," sitting in the Circuit Court of Deland, Florida, deliberated for one hour and six minutes last week and returned the most amazing verdict in the bloody history of "justice," Florida style.

Two brothers, Earl and Everett Blackwelder, of Daytona Beach were acquitted of the murder of Lee Snell, Negro taxicab driver, who was taken from a police officer while being transported to the Deland jail several weeks ago, and shot down in cold blood while an audience of at least half a dozen citizens, including the officer, looked on.

In face of the fact that the "lynching" took place in the broad daylight, that a coroner's jury fixed the blame for the shooting of Snell on the two brothers, that the officer had formally charged the brothers with murder and had arrested them, and that a grand jury had indicted them without much ceremony, the trial jury calmly undid all of the workings of well-intended justice and found the brothers "not guilty."

In this instance, justice was not merely perverted, it was stamped upon the ground into the sandy soil of the Daytona Beach section. For once, a Negro was not even accused of a serious crime. Snell was only being held on technical charges of manslaughter in connection with the death of the Blackwelders' kid brother from injuries sustained in an accident involving Snell's cab.

That brazen murder, in broad daylight, of a citizen whose criminal guilt was hardly even presumed by fair-minded people, could go unpunished is a travesty of the worst sort. However, punishment of the Blackwelders could in no way return life to the unfortunate victim.

But this unbelievable verdict will inure further suffering to the commonwealth of Florida. Such a verdict represents the complete collapse of the system of trial by jury in Deland and is likely to bring about the degeneration of law and order in that section.

'Tis strange but universally true that perversions of justice react finally upon all of the people of the commonwealth, white or black, because human depravity among any racial group cannot be controlled when the machinery of law and order is destroyed.

Journal and Guide
6-10-39
Norfolk, Va.

A Slant on Mobs

By G. N. REID

THE SOCIAL mind presents various degrees of intensity. Most attention has been given to the brief but extreme exhibits in the form of mobs, which usually are the result of an encounter between a homogeneous crowd and persons of some different social mind.

A teacher of mine once punished a crippled boy severely. The whole gang of boys were waiting outside to meet the teacher. He was angry and spoke against the cripple. The boys mobbed him before any help could arrive, and he left on the earliest train the next day.

The teacher punished a naughty boy. The boy needed the punishment, no doubt, but the teacher lost control of himself and gave the punishment too severe.

The boy's parents were aroused. They called on the school board and scattered the information about the small town. In less than twelve hours the whole place was aroused; mob indications could be seen and felt. The affair could not be settled until the teacher had resigned his position.

Mob phenomena, as I understand the situation, are becoming less frequent among adults as people become more accustomed to live in close intercourse with their fellows as their interests become more diversified.

From the very outset, modern communication puts each person in connection with so many others in whom he comes to have vital interest, though they may be far removed from him in space or time, that the crowd about him can less easily carry him away.

In a complex society, too, mobs are seen to be dangerous. A sentiment is cultivated that is unfavorable to the mob spirit, regarding it as a mark of low state of culture.

When the city man finds himself in a throng he braces himself against any mob spirit which he may see arising.

•

Persons experienced in dealing with crowds, like policemen and ushers, know how to handle them. Direct opposition to a unified group, as in the above illustrations, only intensifies their attitude; while self-possesion, good nature, and sympathy with them favor peaceful adjustment.

Consequently, a crowd is saved from becoming a mob if it is turned into a deliberative body; has a chairman to keep order and committees to plan its action, all in accordance with the rules for parliamentary procedure which are generally known among adults.

But children are only in the process of learning the ways of civilized society, and so every teacher, especially every principal, needs to understand crowds and mobs.

Journal and Guide
7-15-39
Norfolk, Va.

PERFIDIOUS LYNCHING REPORTS

For all these years the Negro press has consistently waged war against the nefarious lynching habit in this country. At the beginning of the crusade it was common to report several hundred persons lynched during the year with many others not reported. Friends were induced to use their influence against the rule of the mob. There has been an increase in their number, some connected with organizations decrying this form of lawlessness. Among these are many leading white men and especially women of the south. Very often we have commended them and continue to do so, because they are mainly the cause of spreading sentiment against lynching. The result is that last year there was less than a dozen cases and the first six months of the present year just four cases were reported. Among these four cases one only was from Georgia. At the time we deplored it. To the credit of our state this lone case was an error caused by over zealousness. This lynching did not occur. These records are kept by Dr. M. N. Work of the research department of Tuskegee Institute. He was imposed upon, believing from a reliable source, he made record or it. This case was investigated by two of our leading white citizens who found that there was no lynching. We got in touch with Dr. Work who gave the source of his information. In a news release a fuller statement is made. All of us should join in decrying lynching and no ardent race lover should be guilty of publicizing such unless there be the fullest verification.

Lynching Not Our Greatest Evil

By NEBRASKA JONES

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—

Tomorrow the President of these United States will deliver the Annual Message to the 76th Congress. Millions of American citizens will listen [illegible] to what the President has to say for and about the many domestic complications of this country. Foreign statesmen and the like will listen that they may get a better understanding of this government's foreign policy. In the face of the recent happenings in Europe—the after effects of the now historic Conference at Munich; the verbal war between the newspapers of this country and the papers of the Dictatorial powers, and the pledges of solidarity of the Americas at the Lima Conference along with the Armament program of this Country; the recent victory of the Republican party and the split in the New Deal ranks—the President's speech should be one that will create interest the world over.

Tomorrow the 76th Congress will have assembled. The calendar will, I am sure, include new bills of various kinds purposely to wipe out our present economic evils. Old bills, dust covered from the storm of the last Congress, will be re-introduced. One bill in particular will interest the colored people of this great empire—the Anti-Lynch Bill. The Anti-Lynch Bill is believed to be designed to end the lawlessness of lynchings that has been practiced in the country, particularly in the South for more than a century. The mob has reigned so long in the South that it has reduced the section to such a low state of barbarism that even Stalin and his like are ashamed of our doings.

No colored citizen will say that a law against lynching is not needed, nor will any decent white citizen say such a law is not needed; however, many will say that, in face of our present economic crisis, it is foolish for our congressional representatives to waste the taxpayers' money filibustering on an issue which they know is as important to the social peace of this country as any bill since the 14th amendment, when we are in need of sound legislation to correct our present economic evils which are causing millions to suffer.

The colored people know that lynching is not our greatest evil. Our greatest evil lies in the number of homicides among colored people. In Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia, more Negroes were killed by Negroes in 1938 than have been lynched by the savage white mobs in the last twenty-five years. The homicide rate among colored people is traced to one chief cause: the white dominated courts. The court does not prosecute a colored offender to the fullest extent of the law when he has offended another colored person.

So much for the high homicide rate and its cause. Now back to lynching. We really have little need for a lynch law. The colored citizens of America can stop lynching. Many white men have been and still are violating the unwritten law (the color line) that so many innocent colored men have been lynched for and nothing has been done about it. If there must be lynching, if we all must be heathens, let's lynch from both sides.

Record Of Lynchings

East Tenn News

RECENT RELEASE OF the record of lynchings in the United States in 1938 serves effectively to suggest renewed activity on the part of foes to this deplorable type of lawlessness for the enactment of legislation that will give our Federal courts jurisdiction in meting out punishment for such offenders.

Leaders of our legislative bodies, regardless as to party affiliation, seem to be agreed that the lynch evil serves to bring a blot on the name of our country and bring forth more charged inconsistency than any other condition confronting the nation. There is little question but that Federal legislation will prove the only means of putting a stop to lynching. It is the earnest hope of all thoughtful and fair-minded Americans that our Congress will make the enactment of a Federal Anti-Lynching Bill the first legislation to be favorably voted as their body convenes shortly after the first of the year.

Lynch Law And Mob Violence Must Be Destroyed in America

1-27-39

Nashville

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was organized to suppress lynch murder and mob violence. The Chicago Defender has carried on its Editorial Page for thirty years, the slogan: "Race Prejudice in America Must Be Destroyed." The Negro Press for fifty years has been on and off the job to no avail. Lynch law and mob rule have decreased to some extent, but race prejudice has increased and intensified. While mob violence and lynch murder have decreased, race prejudice has been engaged in an economic campaign of shutting the door of hope in the Negro's face, and lessening his opportunities to earn meat and bread for the support of himself and family.

The fight among the Negroes to free themselves of these chains of misery has been un-organized; fraught with glaring inconsistencies, and characterized by selfishness. The N. A. A. C. P. is the only group movement among Negroes in America that has maintained a real working organization to wipe out mob violence and race prejudice and it has not been able to sell its service to the masses for whom the organization labors; the common people. The common people have never believed the Association was organied and operated in the interest of the masses, but for the classes. The common people look at the Association as living in a different wold from them, and descends among the common people when it needs money to support the classes that live in a world in which they do not.

Lynch law is a political question and not an economic question. It is suppressed or tolerated by political institutions, existing under the guise of political parties. In the United States of America, we have two major political parties—Republican and Democrat. The attitude of the parties has been, Republican for the suppression of the crime by law; and the Democratic party for the toleration of the crime without law. Thirteen million Negroes in America can change public sentiment, and have lynch murder wiped out by law if they will go about it in the right way. It can not be done by jumping from party to party, or by denouncing the Supreme Court of the United States. It cannot be done by voting for the party that has always supported mob law or toleration of crime against Negroes. It cannot be done by voting for the Democratic party in the North and denouncing the Democratic party in the South. The fight must be consistent and never ceasing until the victory is won.

Man is judged by the company he keeps; water seeks its level. This is a political question, and the Northern Democrat plays it up to the Negro for all it is worth by calling him Mister, and giving him a job after election, with the pay of a first class dining car waiter, or a Pullman porter in charge.

If we would wipe out lynch law, we must fight and think consistently, and vote for the party that gave us the right to vote over the other party's protest and vote. There is absolutely no consistency in Negro leaders taking the stump for the Democratic party, when that party has never put a law on the books giving the Negro his rights, and has opposed every law the Republican party has put on the books giving the Negro his rights as an American citizen. It does not make sense. This is a question of statesmanship, and ought to be decided on a moral basis.

The number of offices given to a minority group is no measurement of the worth of the party's service to the group, or expressive of the party's attitude. Offices may be given as a bribe for votes present and future, and not based upon minority rights as set out in the Constitution. "We get more out of Roosevelt than we did out of the Republican party." That is an empty boast, and has no thought of the people's welfare. It is not a matter of how many dollars we get on or off relief, but how many rights and opportunities to earn meat and bread for our families and race. How many jobs have we gained or lost is the important question. Not that seven thousand Negroes out of 13,000,000, ninety per cent of which are in the ditch

THE DISEASE IS CATCHING

Leader

9-15-39

Ky

A report from Florida says that a white man and three Negroes are held in connection with the lynching of a white man in a place called Panama City. The man is said to have been taken from the county jail by masked men, and that his bullet-riddled body was found by a roadside.

Booker T. Washington, the great sage of Tuskegee, said that the disease of lynching Negroes was a dangerous one, that it was catching and that it might not be long before white men would be lynching white men.

But Booker Washington did not say that Negroes would soon be lynching white men. Well, as bad as the whole thing is, that might be a good way to stop it.

"Ladies and Lynching" Bares War on South's Great Shame

Journal and Guide 11-25-39

Norfolk, Va.

NEW YORK, N. Y. — "Ladies and Lynching" is the arresting title of a very revealing article on the South's great shame, by Lewis T. Nordyke in the November issue of the SURVEY GRAPHIC monthly magazine of social interpretations.

The editors describe Mr. Nordyke's contribution as a "remarkable story of the campaign against lynching which is being carried forward by forty thousand southern women, backed by two million members of social, civic and religious groups.

"A Texas journalist reports on the promise of better human relations which distinguishes this quiet but determined movement for 'self-reconstruction.'"

New Slant On Lynching

From Greensboro Daily News

5-26-39

An entirely new slant upon lynching, revealing how agencies of the law, already trampled by lynchers, remain inactive even when they have positive information upon which to proceed, comes from Daytona Beach, Fla., where a Negro taxi driver was done to death on the highway Saturday afternoon and his murderers have been positively identified by several witnesses, including the officer from whom the victim was taken.

This official identification is the unusual aspect of the Florida mobbery. Constable James Durden, on the way to jail with Lee Snell, charged with running over and killing a small boy, told other officers and the coroner's jury that two brothers of the dead lad took the accused Negro from him at the point of a gun and shot him to death on the highway and in the presence of a large group of onlookers. The constable declared that what happened was "cold-blooded murder."

But what had transpired, hours after the lynching and the formal recording of this official testimony? Absolutely nothing, on the basis of dispatches received up to the time of this writing. It is related: "County officers said they were making no effort to arrest the brothers;" "sheriff's officers explained they could not take action until a coroner's jury verdict is rendered and murder warrants were issued for the brothers who were reported in hiding here"; "the Negro funeral home to which the mobster's victim was taken refused to let the jury see the body because they were 'afraid it might be stolen and dragged through the streets as an example'."

That is the official reaction when an eye-witness, an officer at that, identified mobsters, and what a despicable reaction it is. Surely it will not be lost upon those of the Washington statesmen who aver that local officialdom can be counted upon to break up lynching, to see that justice is done when the most barbaric crime of them all is committed in southern areas where, in this particular field, state's wrongs continue to predominate so-called state's rights.

WHITE MOBS CHANGE THEIR OBJECTIVE FROM MURDER TO LARCENY AND HIGHWAY ROBBERY

Globe 11-17-39

Nashville Tenn

From press dispatches, coming from all parts of the country, white mobs, who prey upon defenseless Negro victims, have changed their objective, from murdering Negroes to whipping them and robbing their persons of their money and other valuables found on them, when kidnapped, or held up on public highways. The mob has found out that there is more profit in robbing chicken roosts, picking pockets holding Negroes up on highways and robbing their homes and smoke houses with guns than there is in leaving their dead bodies hanging to the limbs of trees, where the public can see their carcasses on Sunday morning going to Sunday school and church.

News from Missouri, North Carolina and Arkansas sustain the facts. The law in the communities where these outrages go on against common decency, make no effort to bring these modern heroes to justice; but wink at these outrages These crimes perpetuated on the bodies of Negro people and the violation of their rights and privileges do not challenge the law enforcement officers in the communities where they occur. These mobs have been known to take Negro men from their homes, whip them, tie them out and return to the homes of their victimes and rob their homes while they hold their families under duress with guns. Of course these outlaws find more profit in picking the pockets of Negroes, robbing their hen houses and stealing their meats and other provisions than they do in leaving a dead Negro hanging to the limb of a tree. These crimes are on the increase rather than the decrease. The New Deal that loves the Negro so well, that it gives half as much to eat as it does the white man, and pay him half the wages that it pays a white man for doing the same kind of work, has not made any effort to stop these outrages through the Federal Courts when its attention had been called to specific cases of crime against person and property. In every ease, where the Department of Justice has been advised of these crimes, it has cried out no jurisdiction, but it can protect American white men in Germany Japan and elsewhere, but is powerless to protect the life and property of an American Negro citizen at home

LYNCHINGS- 1939
DISCUSSION

WHITE PRESS, SOUTHERN

6175

Roanoke, Va., World News
June 1, 1939

Editorial Comment

Antilynching Pattern

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Virginia has not had a lynching since 1926, and is not likely to have any more, if law enforcement officers throughout the State follow the antilynching procedure of which Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead, Jr. of Pittsylvania county has just given an efficient demonstration.

On Sunday afternoon, a county constable was shot and killed by a Negro man, while attempting to make an arrest at a colored church near Callands. The Negro fled, and a search for him was begun by an armed posse. Many an offense like this has been followed by a lynching, in recent years. The situation gets out of the hands of the officers directing the search, and the level-headed possemen, and a lynching is staged. It is an all too familiar pattern of violence. In this case, the armed farmers, volunteers, and local officers, were soon joined by nine State troopers whose services had been requested by Mr. Whitehead.

The Negro who is alleged to have fatally shot the officer, surrendered, and was placed in the Pittsylvania County jail where his safekeeping was assured. Feeling, which had mounted dangerously high in the section of the county in which the slain constable lived, has quieted down. Today, a special grand jury called by Judge J. T. Clement of the Circuit Court of Pittsylvania County, at the request of the Commonwealth's Attorney, will consider the indictment of the accused Negro. Four of the State troopers are remaining at Chatham to insure adequate police protection during the court proceedings.

Having acted with promptitude and intelligence thus far in the case, Commonwealth's Attorney Whitehead can be expected to see his prisoner safely through trial.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
May 3, 1939

"Murder," Not Lynching

Editor, Orlando Morning Sentinel:

Permit me to register a vigorous protest against your caption in Sunday morning's issue, "Daytona Negro Lynched". The negro was not lynched but murdered. There is a vital social distinction.

Lynching, according to the Century Dictionary, supported by common usage, "implies lawless concert or action among a number of members of the community." In the present instance there were no mob action, no community lawlessness, reflecting upon the character of Daytona, but only the lawlessness of two individuals.

It may be that to an unhappy victim there is no difference between lynching and murder. But to Daytona and to Florida the difference is gravely important. Every sizable city has its murders, but only backward communities have lynchings. So, let our Northern newspapers and the officers of the International Labor Defense take notice. This was not "the second lynching in one month in Florida", as was stated. As a murder, it does not call for protests from outside the State. It is for the law officers of the county to handle,—with relentless justice, let us hope. In short, the fair name neither of Daytona nor of Florida is involved.

EUGENE R. SHIPPEN
Winter Park.

(Editor's Note: Webster's International dictionary defines Lynching: "To inflict punishment upon, especially death, without the form of law, as when a mob captures and hangs a suspected person.")

III and IV

Wilmington, N. C., Morning Star
July 6, 1939

Editorial Comments From Other Angles

LESS THAN SOUTHERN

The Charlotte News

Last year the south lynched six negroes. Of those, only one was lynched in the first six months of the period, five in the second six months. But this year, the number lynched up until July 1 was four. It is disheartening to observe that lynchings in the first half-year has quadrupled and that in all probability for the whole year they are going to be larger than for 1938.

To speak of the south here, however, is beginning to be a little unfair. Actually, most of the lynching for the last decade and more has been confined to four states: Florida, which accounts for two this year; Georgia, with one this year; Mississippi, with one; and Alabama, which has a clean record for the first half of 1939. Both North Carolina and Virginia (we have our fingers crossed) have demonstrated that it is possible for a southern state to get rid of the thing as a habitual performance. Tennessee, too, for that matter, since most of the lynchings that take place there are staged by mobs from just over the border in Alabama, Mississippi or Arkansas. And South Carolina has been doing a great deal better in recent years—a fact that disposes of the claim that lynching is the necessary concomitant of a very large negro population.

The sole reason the thing keeps up in these states is simply that the communities in which they happen approve of or condone them. And it grows pretty tiresome. We have always doubted the wisdom of a federal lynching law. But if these communities can't or won't clean up their own premises, then we suspect that ultimately states like North Carolina and Virginia are going to grow weary of disgracing themselves by appearing as their allies, and decide to let the federals have 'em.

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 8, 1939

POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.

Lynching figures for the first six months of the present year, compiled and released by the department of records and research at Tuskegee institute, are three times larger than they were for the corresponding periods of last year.

To be sure, the number is relatively small, but any life taken by a mob leaves a great scar on civilization's and our section's face. Four persons have been done to death by mobs, all in the south, through June of 1939 against only one during the first six months of 1938. Let it be known in all fairness, however, that these lynchings were confined to the deep south, and that our own North Carolina—fingers crossed during the citation—was happily spared any such barbaric manifestation. But North Carolina nevertheless shares in the stigma which is placed upon the south and thus should be all the more aroused over protection of a good name and record when it happens to have them.

Our interest centers, however, upon a possible explanation of the 300 per cent increase which mobberies have registered to date. There is one circumstance that we distinctly recall in this connection and to which we are perfectly willing to attribute the difference. During the first six months of 1938 a federal antilynching measure was before the Congress. For much of that period it was under actual consideration and debate with strong likelihood of passage; in fact, only the lung power of a group of southern honorables prevented its placement on Uncle Sam's statute books. But even consideration and debate of the bill served to excellent purpose. It was generally agreed that had a lynching occurred while the legislation was pending, its passage would have been assured. Southern politicos, officers and potential mobsters were on their toes to prevent any such deciding factor. Thus we had only one lynching against the four which are now reported with no federal statute before the legislative or in prospect.

If mere consideration of a law has such wholesome and preventive effect, what could reasonably be expected if that proposed legislation became the law of the land with the federal department of justice committed to its enforcement?

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 19, 1939

Down With Marriage Mobs!

ON rare occasions in the South, mobs of white men form and either do violence to or threaten violence against negroes who have raped white women or murdered white men. We emphasize the rarity of these occurrences when we point out that in Alabama—a state of more than 2,600,000 souls—not a single lynching has occurred in more than a year and a half.

Nevertheless there are certain zealots who feel that the Southern states—states such as Alabama—are incapable of coping with the lynching problem, and they want the federal government to step in and take control—assuming duties which the framers of the Constitution did not anticipate.

We now notice by the papers that in New York, a mob more bloodthirsty than any mob the average Alabamian has ever seen, got after a man and threatened to kill him for getting married! There was no rape, or murder, or any other heinous crime involved. This man—a man of means—had merely married a girl—a poor girl—but the mob didn't like it because he was 60 years of age and she was only 16.

In Alabama, our mobs form to combat rapers and murderers, but we have never yet known of a mob which sprang into being simply because it didn't like a perfectly lawful marriage—a type of marriage which is taking place every day in this country. New York has one of the world's finest police forces, and yet that police force was not as successful in holding back that infuriated crowd as is the average country sheriff of Alabama who perhaps has no more assistance than one or two deputies.

We politely suggest, therefore, that the need of an anti-lynching law as it pertains to marriages in New York is just as great as the need of an anti-lynch law as it pertains to rapes and murders in the South. In New York, the mobs not only take the courts into their own hands, as do the occasional Alabama mobs; they go us one better, and take law-making itself into their hands! This, as you see, is demonstrated by the fact that they threaten to lynch someone who has been entirely within the law.

We should like to see someone present our idea in Washington—providing a stiff penalty of a few hundred thousand dollars against the people of New York for permitting one of these marriage mobs to form. We await the forthcoming debate in Congress over the horrors of marriage mobs in New York, and we freely predict that this country will not be safe for democracy until the federal government steps in and handles without mercy those who in this manner would undermine our cherished traditions!

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
April 6, 1939

Mob Violence Flares Again

A Florida mob has probably given new impetus to the demand on the part of certain demagogues in congress for the passage of an anti-lynching bill.

On Friday of last week, Miles W. Brown was convicted at Panama City of the first-degree murder of Roy Van Kleeck, a hardware merchant. The jury recommended mercy which, under Florida law, automatically carried a life sentence instead of the death penalty.

Early Saturday morning a band of masked men, expressing dissatisfaction because the killer had not received the death penalty, took him from the county jail and shot him to death.

Jailor John Goodwin said, "four or five masked men" slipped into the room where he was sleeping, bound and gagged him, taking his keys to unlock Brown's cell.

Goodwin said they warned him not to attempt to escape and one of them returned a short time later, throwing his keys to the floor with the injunction, "If you come out of there you won't come out alive."

Goodwin said he was able to loose his bonds sufficiently by daylight to knock a telephone from a shelf and summon Sheriff Scott.

State Attorney John H. Carter of Marianna, prosecutor for the circuit, issued a caustic statement in which he said that so long as the jury box, from which jurors for the trial of criminal cases are drawn, is largely filled with the names of jurors who do not possess the moral stamina to return verdicts warranted by the evidence such things as this will be frequently repeated.

Sheriff Scott said there had been no indication that feeling was running high against Brown in the community and there was no demonstration in the court room when the verdict was returned Friday night.

Governor Cone has urged the state attorney and the judge who presided in the case to do all in their power to bring the murderers to justice.

This lynching, according to the facts set forth, was one of the most diabolical and inexcusable that has ever taken place in the South. In a special degree it calls for a supreme effort to bring members of the lynching party to justice.

At the same time there are other considerations which enter into the case. In the first place, the anti-lynching bill which aroused so much hostility last year would have made the sheriff and other peace officers responsible for any lynching which took place in the county and the property owners of the county could be sued for 10 thousand dollars which would go to indemnify the family of the victim.

The general public has nothing to go upon in the case under review except the dispatches from the community, which represent the sheriff as saying there was no premonition whatever of ill feeling because of the jury's recommendation to mercy. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, we must accept the sheriff's version which tends to show that he was really taken unaware and could not have prevented this mob violence.

There is much to be said in favor of the view expressed by the prosecuting attorney who charges that the average juror lacks the moral courage to bring in a verdict which carries the death penalty. It is a fact that many men who are good and wise seriously question the continuance of capital punishment.

At all events, this latest lynching will probably serve to inflame the demagogues in congress and the outstanding lesson is that the guilty mobsters should be found and punished.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
April 4, 1939

The First Lynching.

The first lynching for this year, we believe occurred Saturday night at Panama City, Florida, with a white man as the victim. He was Miles W. Brown, twenty-eight-year-old son of a retired minister. Young Brown was convicted Saturday afternoon of the murder of a hardware dealer, but the jury recommended mercy, which made a life sentence mandatory and saved him from the electric chair.

The mercy recommendation did not, however, save Brown from a murderous mob. A band of five masked men, expressing dissatisfaction because he failed to receive the death penalty, abducted him from jail and shot him to death. His bullet-pierced body, clad in pajamas, was found a few hours later on a country road.

According to Jailer Johnny Goodwin, the dissatisfied men stole into the room where he was sleeping, bound and gagged him, and took his keys to open Brown's cell. Probably the public is wondering whether there will be enough dissatisfaction among the responsible authorities over this incident to assure that the murderers will be found and brought to justice

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Savannah, Ga., Press
April 3, 1939

Illinois—Lynchings—Florida

There were two interesting news items from widely separated sections of the country printed in the newspapers on Saturday afternoon. One was from Panama City, Fla., and the other from Chicago, Ill. It was rather a coincidence that they appeared on the first pages of the newspapers of that day. In some of the papers they were in very close proximity.

The difference in the news items lay in the fact that the killing of Miles W. Brown down in Panama City was attributed to a mob while the taking off of Joseph ("The Duke") Carville in the Illinois metropolis we're told was the work of gangsters. Just why a gang of murderers in Florida should be lynchers and a small body of lynchers in Illinois should be only gangsters we are not advised.

But the interesting feature in connection with these outrages is that the crime in Florida will probably bring on anew cries from that unit in the United States Senate which is demanding the suppression of lynching in the South while the lynching in Chicago will attract no further attention than a brief reference to the funeral of the victim. In the face of what has happened at practically the same hour in these two centers—one the Midwest and the other in deep South Florida—it is respectfully suggested in the name of fair play that Senator James Hamilton Lewis, in the United States Senate from Illinois, appeal to Senator Wagner of New York and his co-authors of a national anti-lynching law to make the measure applicable to the Western, Northern and Eastern states just as they propose to apply it to the South. Senator Lewis has shown keen interest in the anti-lynching bill, so he should look upon it as a great panacea for the prevention of this crime in his adopted home state. Surely he has by this time advised by telegraph or through the means of long distance with the sheriff of Cook county on how to efface this bloody record as far as possible, by running down, arresting, trying and executing those who have so palpably violated the law which even in Illinois says "Thou shalt not kill."

Watch the news dispatches for the next few days and you will find a crime similar to that committed in Illinois being committed in New York right under the nose of Senator Wagner. But that gentleman will do nothing about it.

But as for the South and its Florida infraction of the law: "Put down lynchings in these barbarian states!" That is what the men and women who would reform us are saying. Let's ask 'em to get busy in other sections for a time. Let 'em start demanding the quick trial and execution of the slayers of Carville, "The Duke."

Albany, Ga., Herald
April 4, 1939

FLORIDA'S LATEST LYNCHING.

The Panama City, Fla., lynchers killed a man, but they lynched their own courts. The prisoner had been tried and convicted of murder, but twelve jurors who had heard the evidence recommended him to mercy. That meant imprisonment for life.

The "mob" (there were only four or five of the lynchers) overpowered the jailer and took the prisoner from his cell. Later the victim's bullet-riddled body was found at a point several miles away.

The Savannah Press makes this comment on the Panama City case:

> Here is a case where lynching was inexcusable. It is a reflection not alone upon the town and county in which it took place, but upon the entire state of Florida. We trust Governor Cone will direct a complete investigation of this incident with a view to punishment of those who are responsible for such an atrocious crime.

It should not be difficult to establish the identity of the men who took Florida law into their own hands. The prisoner they put to death had been fairly tried and convicted. The jury found extenuating circumstances which influenced a recommendation to mercy, and there was no excuse for the outrage which shocked Florida and her neighbors.

It was the law that was lynched.

K.K.K. Intimidates Voters, Colored Taximan Lynched

Florida went on a rampage over the weekend and declared a Roman Holiday from Democracy and "the brotherhood of man." In Miami, as a colored taxicab driver was going through the hell of a lynching, the Ku Klux Klan was storming Daytona Beach with a blazing cross warning: "Respectable Negro citizens are not voting tomorrow. N— stay away from the polls."

Tribune
May 4, 1939

Dragged from an automobile driven by Constable James Durden, Lee Snell, 26-year-old Daytona Beach taxi driver, was shot to death, as the constable looked on, last Saturday. The murder followed the arrest of Snell on charges that he had run over a white boy riding a bicycle on the highway. The boy died.

No attempt has been made to arrest the two men, identified as Everette and Earl Blackwelder, both white, still in Daytona Beach.

Snell, who was being taken to nearby Deland to await hearing on manslaughter charges, had accidently run into Benny Blackwelder, nephew of the lynchers, while the youngster was riding a bicycle.

The constable's car was halted by a barricade across the highway, the two Blackwelder brothers ran to the side of the machine and Everette struck at Snell with the butt of his shot gun and Snell fell.

Earl Blackwelder walked over to the writhing man and fired two or thre times into his back with the rifle.

Riding in 75 automobiles, white-robed figures visited the colored section of Miami last Monday, set 25 fiery crosses ablaze and tossed out literature telling colored residents not to vote in the city's primaries..

Cards bearing red lettering "K.K.K." carried the legend:

"Respectable Negro citizens are not voting tomorrow. N—— stay away from the polls."

E. G. Sewell, mayor for the past two months, and 14 other candidates are seeking nomination for three commission posts.

The six high candidates will participate in a run-off election a week later.

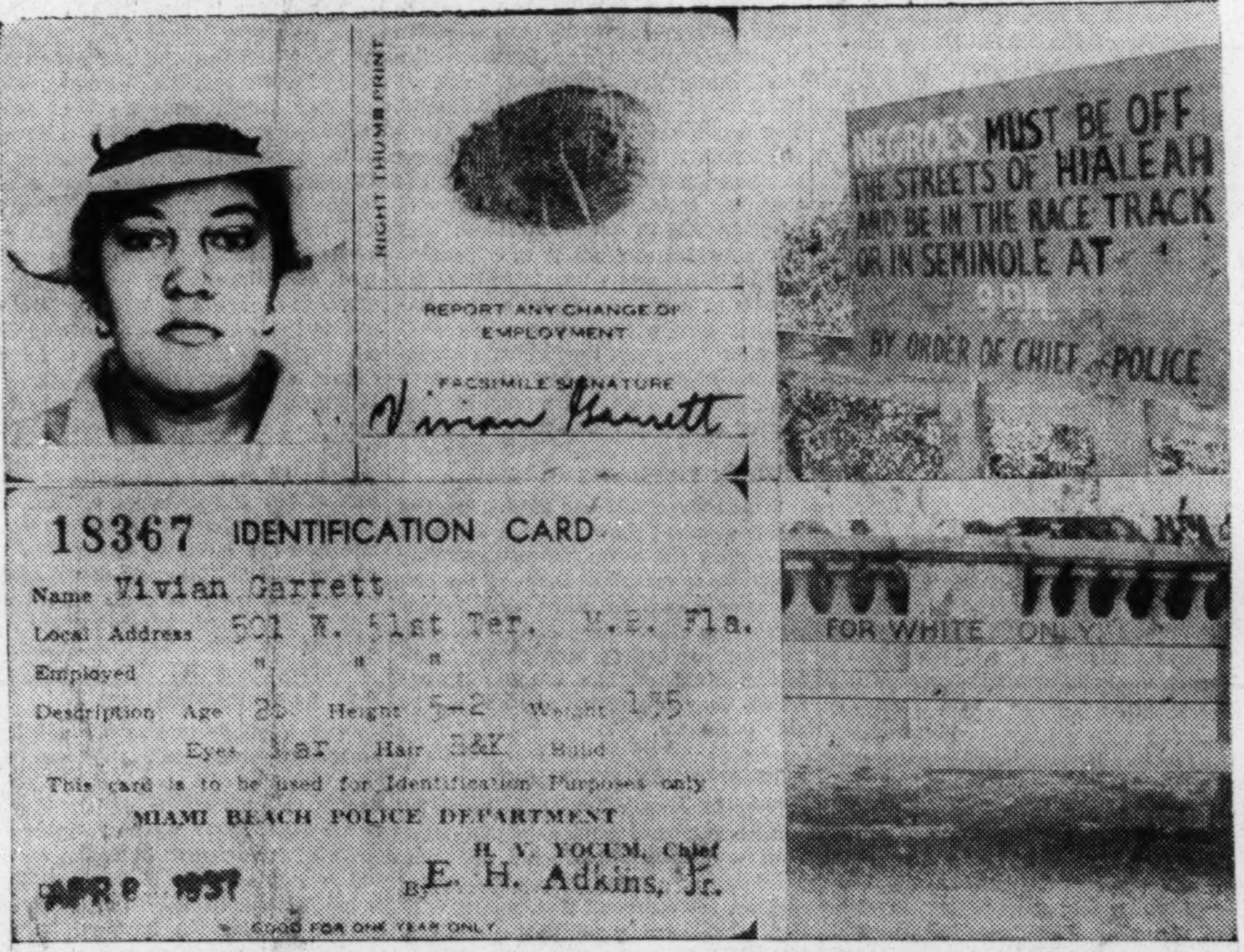
Sewell took office at the recent recall election which ousted the former city commission majority.

"The Klan demonstration has really inspired the Negro to vote," said Sam Solomon president of the Negro Citizens' Service League. He estimated that at least 1,500 Negroes would cast ballots.

Tribune
5-4-39

"CRACKER" CUTUPS

Lynchings, Cross Burnings Constitute Pastimes


RIGHT THUMB PRINT
REPORT ANY CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT
FACSIMILE SIGNATURE
Vivian Garrett
NEGROES MUST BE OFF THE STREETS OF HIALEAH AND BE IN THE RACE TRACK OR IN SEMINOLE AT 9 P.M.
BY ORDER OF CHIEF of POLICE
FOR WHITE ONLY

18367 IDENTIFICATION CARD

Name Vivian Garrett

Local Address 501 N. 51st Ter. M.B. Fla.

Employed " " "

Description Age 26 Height 5-2 Weight 135

Eyes Haz Hair B&K Build

This card is to be used for Identification Purposes only

MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

H. V. YOCUM, Chief

By E. H. Adkins, Jr.

APR 8 1937

GOOD FOR ONE YEAR ONLY

Here's pictorial evidence of the manner in which Florida considers its colored citizens ..just an old-fashioned Florida custom. Great "cutups", those Florida gals and boys.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
DISCUSSIONS

WHITE PRESS-SOUTHERN

NEGRO REPORTED LYNCHED
FOUND ALIVE

Millen, Ga., News
August 10, 1939

Georgia's Lynching Blemish Is Erased

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 5.—Georgia's undeserved black mark for a 1939 lynching was erased this afternoon when a city detective sergeant and a Methodist preacher located Charlie E Williams, husky 33-year-old negro, alive and hard at work at a fertilizer plant here.

"I heard that I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living." That was the sage observation of the negro whom Tuskegee Institute in its semi-annual report listed as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., in Screven County on Saturday night, March 11.

Cordele, Ga. News
August 17, 1939

TUSKEGEE FINDS A MOLEHILL

In a recent report from Tuskegee Institute, the famous Negro college in Alabama, lynchings for the first six months were reported to have numbered four, one of which was supposed to have occurred at Woodcliffe, Ga. This affair was the only one reported for this state.

Now comes word that the Tuskegee statisticians have made a very large and imposing mountain out of a very inconspicuous molehill, The man who was reported lynched on March 11 was discevered to be very much alive on August 3rd. His refutation of the Tuskegee report was a simple, but exceedingly effective one, "I heard I was lynched, but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

According to the report of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, who directed the investigation of the case, the facts are these:

The Savannah Journal of March 12 carried a story of the supposed lynching under the caption "Mob takes Charley Williams off train near Ogeechee, Leaves note on dead man's chest. Victim committed no crime." Beyond this report there seems to have been no evidence of a lynching, and apparently no further efforts were made to check the story. The local sheriff insisted at the time that no lynching took place.

Mrs. Ames of the Southern Women's Association then asked Rev. J. O. J Taylor of Savannah (A member of the Georgia Interracial Committee) to get some information on the supposed crime According to the report by the Georgia Council chairman of the Association, "He went to the job like a trained detective, and to show his spirit I am quoting from his letter of July 12: 'Regardless of which way the case breaks, the public is entitled to know every fact connected with it. If such a lynching did occur, and was suppressed, it is nothing short of the lowest form of crime and we will see that if it did happen, the facts are made known. If it did not occur then this area is entitled to vindication and will get it. But we are in the case with open minds, and will see it through."

A thorough investigation by Rev. Taylor with the assistance of Mr. Parr of the Central of Georgia RR, Rev. Harris of Rocky Ford, Mr. Fitzgerald of the Detective Bureau of the Savannah police, Mr. Charlton of the Savannah Morning News and others proved there had been no lynching. To completely cinch this fact, Charley Williams was found living (without even a note pinned to his chest.

Snap judgement on the part of the Tuskegee statisticians in this case, we feel, came very close to being responsible for a grave mistake. Lynching is a horrible crime with which to charge a state or a community, and a charge on such little evidence as there was in this case was, in our opinion, almost inexcusable.

Pensacola. Fla. Journal
August 21, 1939

Wasn't Worried

"I HEARD I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it because I knew I was living."

That's what a Georgia negro said the other day when he cleared up Georgia's record as to lynchings in 1939. That state now has a clean slate insofar as the execution of untried persons is concerned.

Tuskegee Institute reported four lynchings in the South for this year. It promptly corrected its report when the Georgia rumor was proven unfounded. However, there still remain on the Tuskegee records two lynchings in Florida and one in Mississippi.

Philadelphia, Miss. Democrat
July 28, 1939

TUSKEGEE REPORTS

Tuskegee Institute comes out with its usual report on lynchings, covering the first six months of 1939.

The report goes into detail about the number in each state—2 in Florida; one in Mississippi; one in Georgia.

But it is silent, as usual, as to the other side of the picture.

No report is made as to the crimes that were the basis of these lynchings.

It is silent as to murdered men.

It is silent as to the battered, bruised, defiled bodies of women—perhaps small girls.

Nobody condones lynchings.

Neither can anybody condone murder, rape and like crimes.

To the extent of always giving just one side of the picture, the Tuskegee reports are always one-sided.

Sylvester, Ga., Local
August 10, 1939

MAN DENIES STORY THAT HE WAS LYNCHED

A blot on Georgia's escutcheon for a reported 1939 lynching was erased Thursday when Charlie E. Williams, 33-year-old negro, who was listed as a mob lynch victim, was found alive and at work near Savannah.

"I heard I was lynched, but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living," was the sage observation of the negro, reported in the semi-annual statistics of Tuskegee Institute as having been lynched by a group of white men at Woodcliffe, Ga., Screven county, on the night of last March 11.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
August 9, 1939

Exaggerated

The report that Charlie Williams, 33-years-old Georgia negro, was lynched by a mob last spring appears to have been exaggerated; greatly exaggerated, in fact. Such widespread credence did the report gain that Charlie's name was listed amongst mob victims in the latest summary of lynch crimes compiled by the generally meticulous statisticians of the Tuskegee institute, of Tuskegee, Ala.

Comes now the wirephoto service of the ever-vigilant-for-news Associated Press proffering a photograph of Charlie showing him at work at a Savannah fertilizer plant. The picture also shows the man who found Charlie—the Rev. J. O. Taylor—standing beside him showing him a newspaper containing an account of the reported lynching.

"Yeah, I heard about it, but I didn't pay any attention," Charlie is quoted as saying, broadly grinning the while.

The incident brings to mind a somewhat similar one which occurred some years ago in the rural section of a nearby county of the Piedmont.

A reputedly slow-witted native, who had long been made the butt of much good-natured rustic banter, was jocularly accosted in a crowd by a friend with: "Bill, I sure am glad to see you. I saw in the paper that you were dead. You ain't, are you, Bill?" "Naw," drawled Bill, coldly scrutinizing his interrogator. "I see'd hit in the paper, too. But I knowed hit were a lie as soon as I see'd hit."

Fayetteville N. C., Observer
August 23, 1939

A MISSING LYNCHING.

The Tuskegee Institute reported on uly 1 that one of the four lynchings hich it tabulated the first half of this ear was that of Charley Williams, a eorgia negro.

Investigating the Association of outhern Women for the Prevention of ynching found Charley alive and well nd stating:

"I heard I was lynched but didn't pay ny attention to it 'cause I knew I was iving."

That is a logical frame of mind.

Not so logical is the headline of a story in the Savannah Journal as of March 12 which asserted:

"Mob Takes Charley Williams Off Train Near Ogeechee, Leaves Note on Dead Man's Chest. Victim Committed No Crime."

That was what gave Tuskegee the bum steer.

We have to hand a letter from the ASWPL explaining that there was no lynching (which we appreciate) but what we would like to know professionally was the journalistic procedure through which the lurid and circumstantial yarn gained admission to the columns of the Savannah Journal—and why.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
August 5, 1939

Tuskeegee Slips

The reputation for accuracy of Tuskeegee Institute's lynching figures gets a jolt because of two errors in the report for the first half of this year.

In one case the reported lynching turned out to have been a murder; between murder and lynching is a vast difference.

In another the negro reported to have been lynched in Georgia is found to be living and working. "I heard I was lynched," he said, "but I didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

Tuskeegee's figures long have been accepted by many organizations and citizens interested in stamping out lynching but there will be hesitancy about it now.

The school will have to exercise great care to insure accuracy if its regular reports are again to enjoy the confidence that has been placed in them, and deservedly, in the past.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
August 11, 1939

Somewhat Exaggerated

Charley Williams, negro laborer, is alive and working in Savannah. He is, by all accounts, happy and carefree. And, certainly, in good health.

The importance of Charley Williams' condition of life is found in the fact that he was listed, in the semi-annual Tuskegee report on lynchings, as having been the victim of a mob of white lynchers, in Screven county, Georgia, early last March.

This alleged outrage was the only black mark against Georgia, in this category, for the half year. Now the report has been proved false, it leaves the state record stainless for the six-month period. And it reduces the number of lynchings in the south, for that same period, to three, instead of the announced four.

Three is a disgrace, of course. It is a thing to bring shame to any decent person to hear of a lynching, anywhere, anytime. But, certainly, three is, by that much, better than four.

When Charley Williams was found, alive and happy, despite the report of his death by mob violence, he explained his silence by saying, "I heard I was lynched but didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living."

Which, it must be conceded, was perfectly sound logic.

However, whether Charley realizes it or not, the entire state of Georgia, the entire south and the entire nation is gratified to discover that he still "knows he is living," and that the erroneous lynching report has been utterly refuted and branded as an undeserved slur on the fair name of Georgia.

Memphis Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
August 8, 1939

A New Twist, Anyway

Tuskegee Institute down in Alabama makes a specialty of gathering statistics on lynching, and so when the Tuskegee semi-annual report on July 1 this year showed Charlie E. Williams had been lynched in Georgia, most people entertained no doubts. Certain Georgians, however, felt an error had been made, and a day or so ago a long search was rewarded by finding the husky negro hard at work in a fertilizer plant in Savannah. Thus is a stain removed from the record of Georgia and the South, and doubtless every energy will be employed by Tuskegee and other agencies that have circulated the report to deny it. There is no question of bad faith, by the way, for the attitude of Tuskegee toward the inexcusable crime of lynching has always been restrained and constructive.

Williams himself was highly amused at having been cast in this tragic role. "I heard I was lynched," he said, "but I didn't pay any attention to it 'cause I knew I was living." Thus the first new twist to an old situation. This marks the first time we can remember when the allegedly deceased has not quoted Mark Twain's reputed remark that reports of his death had been greatly exaggerated.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
August 5, 1939

Unlynched and Busy

Had the anti-Southern, or "anti-lynching", bill come to discussion in congress a week ago the colored man of Georgia who was "lynched" in the reports but is alive to tell the tale would have been served among the horrors by Senator Wagner, Senator Van Nuys, Representative Gavagan of the black district of New York. There's life in the old land yet, and some of it is in the veins of Charlie Williams now working in a fertilizer plant in Savannah. This Charlie, though unlynched, is not even receiving WPA relief wages.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
August 12, 1939

The report of a negro lynching in Screven county in March of this year has turned out to be a fabrication out of the whole cloth. The "lynched" negro is alive and working. Thus far in 1939, Georgia has not the back mark of lynching against the state's record.

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WHITE PRESS, SOUTHERN

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Birmingham, Ala. News
April 3, 1939

When Lynchers Are Murderers

Another black spot upon the South was made when a small group of men broke into the jail at Panama City, Fla., and lynched a condemned murderer because they did not like the sentence a jury had pronounced upon him. The victim had been found guilty and given life imprisonment instead of a death sentence.

It is difficult to imagine a worse offense against justice and the orderly processes of law. Here was a man legally tried. A jury that had heard all the evidence presented calmly and carefully and judiciously, with every legal and human right of the defendant protected, decided that he deserved a recommendation of mercy, and hence life imprisonment instead of death. But four or five men who were not in a position to decide fairly and honorably thought otherwise, and the prisoner was abducted from jail and shot to death.

The term applied by the sheriff to those who committed this deed was aptly chosen. "Murderers," he called them, and murderers they were. Doubly they were murderers because they slew outside the law just as much as anyone else ever has and because in doing so they assaulted all sense of justice and the courts that are the foundation of peace and right.

One may hope that the sheriff and all others concerned will act toward the members of this mob as vigorously as they would act toward any other criminals.

It is well to point out, too, that in this lynching there was no race question. The man lynched was white, the man he was convicted of slaying was white, and the lynchers, as usual, were white.

Savannah, Ga. Press
April 1, 1939

Florida's Lynching

It is lynchings such as that reported from Panama City, Fla., today that bring the South into bad repute. Down in this far southern section of the Peninsular state a mob has just taken the law into its own hands and lynched a defendant who had been tried for a crime, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for life. We are informed by the Associated Press a small number of men—not more than four or five—took the convicted man from jail and shot him to death.

Brown was convicted last night of the first degree murder of Roy Van Kleeck, a merchant and former county commissioner in whose store he formerly worked. The jury recommended mercy, making a life sentence mandatory.

Here is a case where lynching was inexcusable. It is a reflection not alone upon the town and county in which it took place but upon the entire state of Florida. We trust Governor Cone will direct a complete investigation of this incident with a view to punishment of those who are responsible for such an atrocious crime.

Athens, Ga. Banner-Herald
April 4, 1939

AN UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCE

The recent lynching in Panama City, Florida, was, indeed, unfortunate in that the victim had been tried by the courts, convicted and given a life's sentence. Giving a reason for the lynching, it was stated that the men guilty of the crime were not satisfied with the punishment imposed by the judge.

The case was tried before a jury and at the conclusion of the arguments, the jury returned a verdict of murder, but recommended mercy. Under the laws of Florida it was mandatory on the part of the judge to impose life sentence. This he did and the murderer was returned to jail. That night, less than a half dozen citizens approached the jailer, overpowered him and took the man from jail. He was carried to a nearby point, shot several times and left dead. No one has been arrested for the crime and little, if any evidence has been secured as to the identity of the perpetrators. Such cases of lynching should be run down at all hazards and the guilty parties brought to trial. It is not only a reflection on the people of that community, but it makes it hard on the reputation of the people of the southern states who have to bear the burden of criticism for such outrageous conduct.

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
April 4, 1939

Another Florida Lynching

A small group of masked men entered the jail at Panama City, Fla., Saturday, bound the jailor, seized a prisoner who had been convicted of murder the day before and given a life sentence, and took their victim into the county where he was shot to death.

In this case the jury had recommended mercy which made the life sentence imperative. Four or five men of the community disagreed with the jury, took the law into their own hands and committed a murder as astrocious as that they were avenging. They also placed a stigma on the good name of their state.

It is such violations of law in the name of justice that cause some congressmen to support anti-lynching laws. In the last ten years thirteen lynchings have taken place in the state of Florida. Mississippi and Georgia alone of all the southern states have exceeded that number of lynchings. It is gratifying to know that during that period there were only two years in which South Carolina was disgraced by lynchings

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Americus, Ga., Recorder
April 4, 1939

ILLINOIS—LYNCHINGS—FLORIDA

(Savannah Evening Press)

There were two interesting news items from widely separated sections of the country printed in the newspapers on Saturday afternoon. One was from Panama City, Fla., and the other from Chicago, Ill. It was rather a coincidence that they appeared on the first pages of the newspapers of that day. In some of the papers they were in very close proximity.

The difference in the news items lay in the fact that the killing of Miles W. Brown down in Panama City was attributed to a mob while the taking off of Joseph ("The Duke") Carville in the Illinois metropolis we're told was the work of gangsters. Just why a gang of murderers in Florida should be lynchers and a small body of lynchers in Illinois should be only gangsters we are not advised.

But the interesting feature in connection with these outrages is that the crime in Florida will probably bring on anew cries from that unit in the United States Senate which is demanding the suppression of lynching in the South while the lynching in Chicago will attract no further attention than a brief reference to the funeral of the victim. In the case of what has happened at practically the same hour in these two centers—one the Midwest and the other in deep South Florida—it is respectfully suggested in the name of fair play that Senator James Hamilton Lewis, in the United States Senate from Illinois, appeal to Senator Wagner of New York and his co-authors of a national anti-lynching law to make the measure applicable to the Western, Northern and Eastern states just as they propose to apply it to the South. Senator Lewis has shown keen interest in the anti-lynching bill, so he should look upon it as a great panacea for the prevention of this crime in his adopted home state. Surely he has by this time advised by telegraph or through the means of long distance with the sheriff of Cook county on how to efface this bloody

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record as far as possible, by running down, arresting, trying and executing those who have so palpably violated the law which even in Illinois says "Thou shalt not kill."

Watch the news dispatches for the next few days and you will find a crime similar to that committed in Illinois being committed in New York right under the nose of Senator Wagner. But that gentleman will do nothing about it.

But as for the South and its Florida infraction of the law: "Put down lynchings in these barbarian states!" That is what the men and women who would reform us are saying. Let's ask 'em to get busy in other sections for a time. Let 'em start demanding the quick trial and execution of the slayers of Carville, "The Duke."

Cordele Ga Dispatch
March 30, 1939

EDITORIAL COMMEN

THE NATION AND LYNCHINGS

The Savannah Evening Press has been interested in receiving from the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching a booklet with accompanying charts showing lynchings in various parts of the United States during 1938 and other years.

The 1938 chart credits the country with six lynchings—one each in Florida, Georgia and Louisianna and three in Mississippi.

The chart and information are grossly inadequate because of omissions. There were more men lynched in the cities of Chicago and New York during the year than in the entire Southland. And, so far as we know, nothing was ever done about these crimes. The Congress should get busy and stop these gang killings; 100 per cent lynchings in the home states of Senator Wagner and Senator Lewis, who are so anxious to reform the South in this direction.

The A. of S. W. of P. of L. should be able to do some great missionary work in the East and West toward putting down this lynching evil.—Savannah Evening Press.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
April 8, 1939

CHANGING THE NAME

IT'S TOO BAD that the Florida lynching of that white murderer didn't happen in Chicago or New York. If it had happened in Chicago or New York, it wouldn't have been a lynching; it would have been a gang killing. They tell you that a rose by any other name would be just as sweet, but don't you believe a word they say.

Bradenton, Fla., Herald
April 5, 1939

THAT LYNCHING AT PANAMA CITY

The governor has called upon the attorney-general to investigate the lynching of Miles Brown, a white man, at Panama City last Saturday. Brown was a convicted murderer—committed a particularly atrocious crime by waylaying, murdering and robbing a man who had been his benefactor.

What aroused mob violence was the fact that after Brown had been convicted upon evidence that included his own confession of guilt, the jury which tried the case saw fit to recommend to the court that mercy be granted. That meant escape of the death penalty and a sentence of life-imprisonment for Brown.

And the mob which took him from jail and lynched him left word with the jailer whom they had overpowered, that as the courts had failed to do justice they were doing it as citizens.

A deplorable situation. It is difficult ever to condone mob law. That is a condition not to be tolerated. Yet there is a human equation to be reckoned with. There has been so much failure of juries to do their full duty, so much pardoning of criminals by the State Pardon Board, that skepticism of the strength of the law has, unhappily, become general. The caustic comment of State Attorney Carter, who prosecuted the case, was:

"So long as the jury box, from which jurors for the trial of criminal cases are drawn, is largely filled with the names of jurors who do not possess the moral stamina to return verdicts warranted by the evidence, such things as this will be frequentedly repeated."

Pensacola, Fla. News
May 18, 1939

Others' Editorials

Opinions In The State And Nation

FLORIDA WEEK-ENDS

Giving some idea of what Florida may be like as a tourist resort 10 years hence was the story the other day of Harold Vanderbilt's airplane which brought him from New York City to his winter residence at Palm Beach the other day in only four hours and 29 minutes. What Harold Vanderbilt, because of his great wealth and the marvels of science and invention can do today, thousands of others will soon be able to do when mass production methods bring airplanes within the easy reach of smaller pocketbooks.—Sanford Herald.

It is unfortunate for a community that some newspaper men are so keen for sensations that they will publish locally and place on the news wires for dissemination to every part of America stories that are not based on fact. Last Saturday the press associations of the nation carried on their wires the story of a "lynching" at Daytona Beach. Newspapers throughout the United states smeared the story over their front pages with glaring headlines.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. No lynching occurred, but simply an individual killing on the western limits of Daytona Beach when two, apparently, emotional youths shot to death a negro who had that morning killed their younger brother by striking him with his speeding taxicab.

The Observer is not attempting to justify, nor condemn, the actions of the youths. Courts will determine that matter. But it does condemn the daily newspapers that heralded a "lynching" to the far corners of the earth. Such unfounded publicity does more harm to Daytona Beach than can be offset by all the money that the Chamber of Commerce or other agencies can possibly spend in constructive advertising. — Daytona Beach Observer.

It's an old legislative custom for some of the members to put bills in the hopper designed to lure here people who might be adversely affected. For example, if one of Dade county legislators should get lonesome for home folks, there's nothing to stop him from introducing a bill to abolish the corporate set-up of Miami or Miami Beach. Of course, our representatives wouldn't do anything like that, but you see the possibilities. As a matter of fact, I remember when a bill was introduced to set a 3-cents a-pack tax on cigarets by a legislator, whose objective was to bring in lobbyists for the cigaret interests. These lobbyists are fine spenders and it's amazing how much entertaining they do when they come to town.—Ellis Hollums, Miami Herald.

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WHITE PRESS, SOUTHERN

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COMPARATIVE VIRTUES OF JURIES AND MOBS

A body of citizens of or near Panama City, Fla., have spoken in terms that can not be misunderstood. A young murderer, who was shown mercy — which he never deserved—at the hands of the courts, was taken from the county jail in the still of night and promptly and more than likely unceremoniously put to death.

Death unmistakably was his just lot. It is a sorry state of affairs when private citizens take the law into their own hands and execute a sentence which the courts should have imposed. An occurrence such as this is anything but a credit to a community in which it takes place.

4-10-39

But, behind it all is a message of warning. A warning of impending disintegration of the courts.

Unless our laws are written in a language that says in plain English which is right, and which is wrong. Unless our laws are made "lawyer-proof," our courts, as a medium to mete out justice to law-breakers are on their way out. The people will more and more be taking the law into their own hands.

When and if this condition arises, we as civilized people will have slipped back a thousand years on the ladder of progress.

Moral—Straighten up or "blow up." —Geneva Reaper.

Very well, but is an infuriated mob, self-appointed, and unbound by a sense of obligation, likely to be wiser and more just than a carefully chosen jury whose members are put under oath and required to observe the rules of evidence and fair play?

Would the editor of The Reaper, if charged with cussing in public, for example, prefer to be tried by an oath-bound jury of his peers or by a nondescript mob organized by some flannel-mouth wretch whom he had once offended by cancelling his subscription to the paper? Is the American jury less scientific in its processes and less just in its impulses than the even more famous American mob?

Greenville S C Piedmont
March 28, 1939

A Good Example

In 1930 two lynchings occurred in South Carolina, in 1933 there were four, but in the five years since the state has had none and there has been apparent an increase in public sentiment against the senseless business of trying to fight lawlessness with more lawlessness.

If all southern states will improve their records and attitudes as South Carolina has done the danger of the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill — which, we believe, would encourage rather than discourage lynching and which would threaten southern racial harmony—would be minimized.

We write in the hopeful assumption that this state will maintain this record.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
April 11, 1939

FLORIDA: WEAK LAW MAKES FOR LAWLESSNESS

The lynching of a white man in Panama City, Florida, is a sorry commentary on Florida judicial and police methods.

In the face of what the law officers must have known was high feeling the prisoner was left in the jail of a comparatively small town guarded by only one man.

Unless we are mistaken this was the first lynching of the year in the South and it is also some sort of commentary that the first victim was not a negro.

Another factor is that this outbreak of violence follows on the heels of a mob attack by a group of justly incensed Hebrews in Florida against members of an anti-Semitic organization.

It looks to us like the law is taking an awful licking in Florida—but then perhaps that is the fault of the Florida law itself, a law which winks openly at million-dollar violations when those violations are calculated to attract tourists? We refer to the wide-opening gambling conditions which exist in various sections of the tourist state.

Ft. Payne, Ala., Journal
April 5, 1939

A Florida mob Saturday of three or four men, it is stated, overpowered a sheriff, took a white prisoner who had been convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment and lynched him. Here we find three or four men casting a blot upon the entire state. Mob volence has no place in this age. It should stop. Twelve men certainly have more sense in deliberating upon a case than three or four persons who have feeling in the particular case as was manifested by the Florida mob of Saturday. A judge, jury or mob has no right to pass sentence upon a violator of the law so long as there is any inward feeling whatsoever. This brings us to the point where we would like to express ourselves even further. We believe that all major crimes, especially murder, should be tried in neighboring counties where parties involved are not mingled so closely with friends or enemies, as the case may be.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
April 24, 1939

Editorial of the Day

AS TO JUSTICE IN THE SOUTH

(From The Watertown Daily Times.)

If anyone in the north has a remote idea tha he south justifies or condones lynching let tha person scan the editorial pages of southern papers during the last few days. The Miami (Fla.) Herald becomes violent over the fact that Miles W. Brown, white, who was convicted recently o killing a former employer, was shot to death afte being taken from the jail at Panama City, Fla. by a band of masked men. There is nothing remaining to be said in way of condemnatory language.

Likewise the Greensbro (N. C.) Daily News becomes equally violent because a prison guard who "thought" a negro was an escaped convict shot him to death. The News is particularly bitter because the coroner's inquest was held and the prison guard exonerated. Four men who were prison guards, "and we take it not in distinguishing uniform, and a pack of baying dogs came upon a negro in the dark of the night. The negro ran as just about anybody else scared out of his wits would have done, was fired on because an official 'thought' he was an escaped convict; and a coroner in whom is invested responsibility for fixing the cause of death holds that in so assuming and so firing the quick-triggered guard was and is blameless." And the Greensboro News continues: "Citizens of North Carolina in general may hope and trust that no petty officer thinks them escaped convicts and backs up his "thought" with gunfire."

Newspapers and civic organizations generally throughout the south are condemning this lawlessness as represented by lynching. The courts and defense attorneys seem to be feeling keenly their responsibility in defending to the utmost negroes as well as whites when they are charged with crime. Some defense attorneys in the south today set forth with emphasis their particular interest in seeing negroes get justice because standing alone they are so pitifuly helpless.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
May 16, 1939

The Constitution And Lynching.

Representative Marcantonio of New York has asked the Department of Justice to investigate what he described as the "lynching" of a Negro taxi driver at Daytona Beach, Florida. A Constable told a Coroner's Jury that the driver who had been arrested after his car struck and killed a twelve-year-old white boy, was taken from him by two men and shot to death. In requesting an inquiry into the incident, Congressman Marcantonio acted in his capacity as President of the International Labor Defense.

The Federal Constitution says that an accused person shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, to have compulsory process of obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense. The Constitution also says "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

This column is of the opinion, which it has expressed before, that under a broad interpretation of the Constitution and a faithful enforcement of its provisions the Federal Government could deal with mob murders without the enactment by Congress of an anti-lynching law. To be sure, it is not the State that deprives the victim of a mob of the right of trial by jury, but does not the State deny an accused person the equal protection of the laws when it fails even to attempt to punish those who kill him after they have caught him or have taken him from the hands of officers of the law?

The Federal Government should not undertake to intervene in a lynching for the purpose of finding and punishing the mobsters until the State has had opportunity to enforce the law against them. Even under an anti-lynching law the Government should keep hands off until the State has indicated whether or not it will perform its duty. It will be interesting to note what, if anything, the State of Florida does about the two-man mob which took the Negro taxi driver from a Constable and shot him to death. Meanwhile, it is to be hoped the Department of Justice will respond to Representative Marcantonio's request for an investigation of that incident. Such an inquiry might be helpful in the search that is being made for a solution of the lynching problem.

Shelby, N. C. Star
June 12, 1939

DECLINE IN LYNCHING

Gratifying indeed was the story of how a lynching was avoided at Chatham, Virginia, a few nights ago.

It is not so much an epic of courage on the part of officers charged with the responsibility of protecting the negro prisoner, although courage was exhibited. But the story from Chatham is a commentary upon the fact that public opinion in the South is against lynching.

It was not so long ago that lynchings were common and condoned in the South where negroes were accused of serious crimes. The practice has not entirely died out but it has declined sharply in the face of a growing public sentiment against the taking of human life without due process of law.

From the story of the Virginia effort it is plain that the lynch mob dispersed chiefly because its members were convinced that the crime they were about to commit would not be supported by public sentiment. Backed by public support and opinion many a southern mob bent on lynching has dared the threats of officers to reach their victim and to kill him. If public support had been behind those men in Virginia it is doubtful that the courageous officials would have been able to dissuade the mob from its lethal purpose.

There is definite encouragement then that lynching can be wiped out completely in the South. The Chatham episode clearly demonstrates the trend of intelligent public opinion against such practices. Of course there remains some unintelligent segments of public opinion in the South which would condone and commend such acts of violence.

Fortunately for the South, however, lynchers now and in the future may be assured, if not of punishment, of the condemnation of intelligent opinion for their acts.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
May 31, 1939

Anti-lynching Pattern

VIRGINIA has not had a lynching since 1926, and is not likely to have any more, if law enforcement officers throughout the State follow the anti-lynching procedure of which **Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead Jr.** of Pittsylvania County has just given an efficient demonstration.

On Sunday afternoon, a county constable was shot and killed by a Negro man, while attempting to make an arrest at a colored church near Callands. The Negro fled, and a search for him was begun by an armed posse. Many an offense like this has been followed by a lynching, in recent years. The situation gets out of the hands of the officers directing the search, and the level-headed possemen, and a lynching is staged. It is an all too familiar pattern of violence. In this case, the armed farmers, volunteers, and local officers, were soon joined by nine State troopers whose services had been requested by **Mr. Whitehead.**

The Negro who is alleged to have fatally shot the officer, surrendered, and was placed in the Pittsylvania County jail where his safekeeping was assured. Feeling, which had mounted dangerously high in the section of the county in which the slain constable lived, has quieted down. Today, a Special Grand Jury called by **Judge J. T. Clement** of the Circuit Court of Pittsylvania County, at the request of the Commonwealth's Attorney, will consider the indictment of the accused Negro. Four of the State troopers are remaining at Chatham to insure adequate police protection during the court proceedings.

Having acted with promptitude and intelligence thus far in the case, **Commonwealth's Attorney Whitehead** can be expected to see his prisoner safely through trial.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
July 5, 1939

The Tuskegee Institute reports four lynchings in southern states during the first six months of 1939. It is no excuse for the lynchings, of course, but it does seem that the institute would take some recognition of the gangster slayings in other parts of the country.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
July 9, 1939

Lynching Industry

(The Decatur Daily)

Eastern manufacturers, who have long since learned that they cannot compete with Southern industry and Southern labor on equal footing, have now set about the legal lynching of industry in the South. The lynching will be legal, without a doubt, because laws were passed in Washington.

We predict that all the arguments advanced at Atlanta this past week in an effort to save Southern industry was just so much time lost. The manufacturers of the North and East are out to rule or ruin. They have failed to manage their own industry and they wish the South to pay the cost.

Chief headaches of Northern and Eastern industry is and has been the foreign element of labor, causing one loss after another for industralists. Idle machines do not pay dividends. The industrial centers of the North do not get over one labor disturbance before they gird for another. Right now attacks are being planned on the automotive and the steel industries, all undermining to industry, labor, politics and recovery.

If the industralists of other sections can force the industralists [illegible] the South out of business, then that leaves the whole nation as a market and without a competitive situation.

In Atlanta, at a hearing before some of the Wage and Hour bill representatives, it was estimated that 100,000 people will be thrown out of work in the South if the minimum wage is advanced to 32 1-2 cents per hour. Many of the industries of the South are paying wages of that level. There are many smaller industries which cannot pay such wage. The result will be the closing of the smaller plants.

We do not know that it is worth very much to protest against such treatment. We have felt all along, as we have felt in the case of the National Labor Relations Board, that decisions were already made. We are only given the courtesy of a protest and the courtesy isn't genuine.

The people selected to run most of these far-fetched plans which will lead us to recovery overnight, have no more idea about the South or the people of the South than they have in predicting if it will rain on a certain day ten years from now. They are not familiar with the problems, most of them were educated in centers of the North, most of them were born and reared in the North. What could they care for the welfare or the misery of the South? What more can we expect at their hands other than decisions that are unfavorable,, decisions reached by some professor in a text book.

A gentleman once told us that if professors were as smart as they appeared to be they wouldn't be professors. The pay would be too small for men of such wonderfully illuminating economic theories.

Meanwhile, at the hands of the crackpots, the theorists, and the men and women from the land of Utopia, the South continues to suffer. There is hardly a move made in the direction of industry in which the South doesn't suffer.

We must have wages equal to the wages paid in the North, but when it comes to relief a reliefer in New York is worth twice as much as a reliefer in Birmingham. For every dollar that an Alabama farmer gets in subsidy, a farmer in Iowa receives four dollars. The crack-pots can't get their economic story spelled correctly.

So the legal lynching of industry in the South goes on without abatement. We cannot be beaten in fair competition, other means must be sought to save the hides of the industralists who have allowed foreign elements to tell them how to run their respective industries. What do we hope for from the conference in Atlanta? Nothing, absolutely nothing that will prove of any value to the South. What do we expect from freight rate conferences? Nothing, absolutely nothing in the way of a square deal. The South must continue to build itself in the face of all the obstacles that can be thrown in the path—and build she will.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
July 17, 1939

Lynch-Law

Miami News.—Florida justice has compiled about as unenviable record in the field of lynch law this year as could be found anywhere in the country. There was a brutal lynching at Panama City; none of the lynchers could be found. There was a cold-blooded murder of a negro at Daytona Beach. The Constable who at first said he knew the assailants "as well as I know anybody in this courtroom," was later unable to substantiate his identification. The result: Lynch law has again made a mockery out of legal law in Florida.

Now we have the charges of two negro youths that a pair of Dunnellon policemen hung them to a tree and beat them savagely in an effort to extort a petty confession. The case has come into the Ocala Circuit Court on warrants charging one of the policemen with assault with intent to commit manslaughter, and accusing the other of being an accessory.

Until testimony is taken there is, of course, no way of knowing whether the policemen are guilty of the brutality indicated. If they are, it is certainly to be hoped the Court will be able to find them so. Another unpunished outrage against negroes and a great many people will lose confidence in the ability of Florida to handle her own race problem. When that confidence is fled, then watch out for the Senators in Washington and their federal anti-lynching legislation!

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DISCUSSIONS

WHITE PRESS, SOUTHERN

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
April 5, 1939

PUBLIC HANGINGS WERE POPULAR

Even a political barbecue could not attract so big a crowd as a public hanging in the early nineties. In those days Tennille had a newspaper called "Tennille Error," and it printed a story about the hanging in Atlanta of a Negro named George Washington. Most of the people hanged wanted to say something sensational in their farewell speech before the assembled multitude. This would enable them to make front pages. "Dis, sho go be a lesson to me," one said. But George Washington, according to "The Error," said he had requested his hanging to take place at 11:30 in the morning, so he could reach hell in time for dinner.

Rock Hill, S. C. Herald
March 30, 1939

Other Editorials

A GOOD EXAMPLE

Greenville Piedmont

In 1930 two lynchings occurred in South Carolina, in 1933 there were four, but in the five years since the state has had none and there has been apparent an increase in public sentiment against the senseless business of trying to fight lawlessness with more lawlessness.

If all southern states will improve their records and attitudes as South Carolina has done the danger of the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill—which, we believe, would encourage rather than discourage lynching and which would threaten southern racial harmony—would be minimized.

We write in the hopeful assumption that this state will maintain this record.

Tampa, Fla., Times
April 1, 1939

Panama City Lynching Hurts All Florida

Florida stands charged today in the eyes of the whole nation as the scene of the first lynching of 1939. For this unenviable distinction, for this wretched national advertising, Floridans can thank the "four or five" masked hoodlums who took a white man, convicted of murder, from his jail cell at Panama City last night and shot him to death.

How much longer will the vast majority of law-abiding Floridans allow a few masked, stupid savages to give their State such evil reputation before the whole world? The masks of the mobsters should be ripped off and the killers exposed to stern justice.

There was not the slightest excuse for their act. Justice had taken its full course. The murderer had been convicted by a jury of Florida citizens who had heard the evidence and, in the light of it, recommended life imprisonment as just but stern punishment. The jury upheld the law, the lynchers broke it and are criminals.

All Floridans will sympathize with the law-abiding people of Panama City who have had this stigma forced on their city and on Bay County. But the extension of this sympathy will depend on the efforts of city, county and state officers to apprehend and punish the lynchers.

Charlotte, N. C., News
April 3, 1939

One Touch of Novelty

The only thing that distinguishes the first lynching of the year from all its predecessors in recent years is the fact that the corpus was that of a white man. Otherwise the circumstances are so familiar that we can rattle them off blindly without once consulting the printed account.

It happened in the far South—Florida, this time; a state shamefully given to lynching. The jailer, a deputy sheriff, was taken by surprise and had no chance to defend his prisoner. As usual, however, he recognized no members of the mob, even though they were without masks. No posse was organized to hunt the lynchers down before they could do their deed. If a posse was organized, a decent interval was allowed to elapse overnor of the state has a burning statement in wh leclares that this is a fou upon the escutcheon of the commonwealth, and he is determined to see that the guilty men are brought to justice. But he has made no move to send in State police or militia to do what he well knows the local constables have no intention of doing.

And without waiting for the aftermath of the year's first lynching, we can tell you what *will* happen. Nothing. Nothing at all. Oh, a few editors of Florida newspapers, well away from the area in which the lynching was committed, will indite furious editorials; Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, prime source of lynching statistics, will make an entry on a clean white page, speculating the while if it is polite for a Negro institution to record a white lynching; the lynching bill bloc in Congress will blink and wonder how this white lynching fits in with their purpose for a Federal law; and the fag end of Winter will give way to certain Spring.

Albany, Ga., Herald
April 10, 1939

THEY WILL HAPPEN.

The newspaper never was published that did not make mistakes. Until human nature changes human beings will continue to err.

The Thomasville Times-Enterprise calls attention to one of its own recent slips. It says: "Very few errors in editorial or news items get by without being caught. For instance in an editorial concerning the lynching at Panama City, the editor commenting named the victim as a Negro, although the comment would have stood without change otherwise. The man lynched was a white man, an employe of the victim, who was a most popular and well-liked man in that community. The error was just one of those things that come with a not too careful scrutiny of the items involved. Our attention was called to it this morning by one of the most intelligent and careful readers of current news and editorial comment and this correction is made in deference to the exact truth."

Such slips are all in the day's work, and every newspaper man knows that they cannot be avoided. One day last week in an article printed in the first column of this page, April 21 was given as the date on which spring begins. It was written that way, the linotype operator set it that way, and the proof reader let it stay that way. Some readers may have failed to notice the error, but a good many caught it.

"Slips that pass in the night" is what some one has called these bobbles. They just will happen.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
April 6, 1939

PANAMA CITY'S LYNCHING

Five men are said to have taken the law into their own hands in Panama City, Florida, recently and shot a negro convicted criminal to death on a lonely road. The negro was tried for murder and the twelve good men and true, selected from among the highest type citizens of that county, representative of its best citizenship and highest integrity, decided that the negro was guilty of shooting a white man but that the circumstances were such that he should be placed in prison for life.

Five men, representing their own ideas and with no backing beyond their passions and prejudices, decided that the courts and the jury were wrong and they invaded the jail bound the jailer and took the men out and slew him. They were not recognized and no official action has been taken beyound that preliminary, which indicates that the courts will proceed in the usual manner to ferret out their identity and try them.

It would be a tit-for-tat plan if these men could be tried and released and then have the rest of the citizens come into the court, take them out and administer some drastic or severe punishment.

In one sense it would be just as fair, but in another, it would be as henious almost as taking a human life, where the orderly processes of law had decreed that that was not wise or just. If we are going to permit such things to crop up even in isolated cases like this, it will ultimately taint our entire citizenship and will eventually bring about a revulsion that will pass an anti-lynch law with real teeth in it.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
April 6, 1939

The recent lynching in Panama City, Florida will bring up again the anti-lynching bill in our dear old Congress.

Andalusia, Ala., News
April 6, 1939

Panama City was the scene of a lynching Saturday when a young white man, who was given a lifetime sentence by a jury for first degree murder, was taken from the jail by masked men and killed. Florida usually takes a life for first degree murder, one way or the other.

Savannah, Ga., Press
April 15, 1939

SHEAR OPINION

THE SANDERSVILLE PROGRESS is also curious why big city crimes go uninvestigated:

Florida recently had a lynching when a murderer was put to death by a mob of infuriated citizens. On the same day there was a lynching in Chicago, but the Florida affair received the greatest publicity because it occurred in the Southern states, while scarce attention was given to the action of the Chicago mob. Some of the Northern people condone gangster lynchings and at the same time condemn similar crimes in the South.

Columbia S C State
May 6, 1939

20 YEARS AGO TODAY

The national conference on lynching was opened yesterday at New York with representatives from almost every state in the union in attendance to voice protest against mob violence and the hanging of Negroes without legal trial in this country.

The peace treaty formulated by the allied and associated powers is to be handed to the German delegates at Versailles tomorrow afternoon.

The faculty for the Piedmont summer school to be conducted at Anderson college this summer from June 1 to 7, inclusive, have been announced as follows: Dr. John E. White, president of the college, host; the Rev. T. J. Watts, dean; Miss Annie L. Williams of Birmingham, Ala.; Lueco Gunter, Columbia; the Rev. J. A. Gaines, Greenwood; Clarence S. Leavell, Anderson; Mrs. J. T. Rice, Belton; ton; the Rev. J. M. Burnett, Belton; J. C. Dunford, Anderson; J. L. Schofield, Atlanta, Ga.

Edward McCorkle and Lewis Stoldt of Charleston, Harry Muse, Hugh Kestler and Charles Robinson of Columbia enlisted in the navy at the central recuiting station here yesterday.

Lieut. Robert King returns to Camp Humphries today after spending a short time in Columbia.

The advance sale of seats for Schumann-Heink yesterday morning was good and the out-of-town demand is excellent, yet there are many more seats to be sold before the big auditorium of the Liberty theater will be filled next Saturday evening.

Tallulah, La., Journal
May 19, 1939

Murder or Lynching?

The Shreveport Journal:

Just how the record keepers will list the Daytona Beach, Florida case, in which two brothers of a taxicab victim killed the negro driver, is a question that disturbs the Baltimore Sun. "In some of its aspects," says our contemporary, "this resembles a private murder, rather than a lynching. Two men can hardly be described as a mob, and these two men were executing private vengeance, not merely indulging in homicide for sport, any many lynchers seem to do."

There is a certain amount of plausibility in the argument submitted, but it does not go to the root of the matter, as we see it. The negro, charged with no crime above involuntary manslaughter, was already in custody of Florida officers, but had he been convicted of causing the white man's death, where no malice could be shown, the maximum penalty would have been a term in prison. The brothers who took him from the officers and killed him were dissatisfied with the law, and

above that law set their own wills. That, it seems plain to us, constitutes mob violence—lynching—just as surely as if there had been a hundred blood thirsty men assembled and taking part in the execution.

The essence of the crime of lynching is in the contempt of the participants for the law's processes. That essence was surely present in the Daytona Beach slaying, and it calls for prompt prosecution of the men who, contemptuous of the statutes, took the law into their own hands. There may be cases in which lynching could be condoned, though we are not willing to make any such admission; certainly, though, in a case where a man has been accidentally killed—even as a result of gross carelessness—there is no possible justification for the two-man mob.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
June 7, 1939

Duty Well Done

[*Danville Register*]

IN STRIKING contrast to the jailers who always say that they were "overpowered" and that they had nothing else to do but to surrender the keys is E. A. Edwards, keeper of the county jail who doubtless saved the State of Virginia disgrace during the late hours of Sunday night when he refused to deliver three Negroes held for trial for one of the most brutal murders in the county's history.

Recognizing also the contributing services of the sheriff and the Commonwealth's Attorney and a member of our own craft who played a role in the duties of placation, it must be admitted that Jailer Edwards carried the main burden himself, and manfully. He faced angry men who were armed and masked. They were calling for three Negroes. They were in the jail. He might have been violently assaulted at any moment—but the psychological spark was not there, and Mr. Edwards, with no weapon of his own, accomplished a triumph of argument.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
June 11, 1939

LYNCHING: WHAT'S THE CIO'S CONCERN?

Among the resolutions passed at the CIO's constitutional convention in Philadelphia recently was one urging congress to pass the WAGNER-CAVAGAN anti-lynching bill. This bill would give the federal government jurisdiction over some phases of American lynchings, and would also give the representatives of the lynchee a right of action for damages against the county in which he was lynched.

With lawless intimidation, violence and bloodshed sanctioned and indulged in by the CIO almost every day, it seems rather hypocritical that this organization should ask federal laws against lynching.

However, if a federal anti-lynching law should be passed, we doubt if any CIO members would be prosecuted for indulging in mob violence. When persons were killed by its members it would probably be held a case of "labor protecting its inalienable rights of collective bargaining."

Then too, it is only below the Mason and Dixon line that mob murders are called lynching. When someone is murdered in the Northern, Midwestern and Western states they do not call it a lynching, but politely say that the deceased was "killed in a riot."

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WHITE PRESS, SOUTHERN

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TUSCALOOSA, ALA. NEWS
JAN. 6, 1939

Why Wreck A Good Record?

R. B. ELEAZER of Atlanta, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Relations had the following to say about the 1938 figures on lynching:

"Though even a single lynching would be too many, the 1938 record of six is definitely encouraging.

"It is the low water mark of lynching for the 57-year period during which the records are being pushed off the map. Contrasted with the highest record—that of 1892 with 255 mob victims—the 1938 figures show a decrease of more than 97 per cent. For many years, the average was more than 100 a year; as late as 1919 the number was 83. By comparison, the records of eight, eight and six for the last three years are certainly encouraging."

He then went on to say that a less tolerant public opinion and a greater vigilance by officers were the major factors in this decrease and added that "newspapers also have been an effective agency in moulding anti-lynching opinion."

Eleazer is right. But he should have gone farther. In the South are most of the lynchings. It has been thus for years. He should have been more accurate by saying that it was the public opinion of the South, not of the North, and the greater vigilance of Southern, not Northern, officers which have been major factors in this decrease. He should have said that the newspapers of the South, and not those of the North, have been the effective agencies which have helped in moulding this anti-lynching opinion.

These things have apparently escaped those Northern congressmen who would ram down our throats a federal anti-lynching bill. They know not what they do.

In 1937, there were 38,000 traffic fatalities in America, or thereabouts—an alarming number. Just suppose that a system were devised for the reduction of these traffic fatalities—with the public opinion, the press, and the local officers of the nation playing the principal roles. Suppose that by 1945, the number had been reduced to 15,000 fatalities (even though there were far more cars in use), that by 1950 it had sunk to 5,000, and by 1960 to only 500. Would it not seem strange, then were Congress suddenly to decide that the system was no good, and that it would be advisable to pass an elaborate law which slapped a heavy fine upon every community which allowed a traffic fatality?

Congress would hardly be so drastic—but when we consider the difference between the 255 lynchings of 1892 and the six lynchings of 1938, we cannot escape the fact that federal anti-lynching legislation is that drastic.

If Congress legislates on the basis of common sense, and not on political expediency, it will not dare to pass that anti-lynching law. It will not dare to take such a slap at the South. A decade back, the politicians of the law, in crying out against the prohibition law, were proclaiming to the world that you cannot legislate morals into a people. It is equally difficult to legislate against the mob spirit, for here, too, we have the moral element. The injustices and danger of mob rule must be taught to a people; they cannot be forced upon a people by a federal statute—and the minute that Congress refuses to recognize that fact and attempts to force a federal anti-lynching law upon the people of the South, it will destroy all of the good which the teachers have done in the last half century.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
February 9, 1939

TRAVEL NOTE

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Arthur W. Scharff, 27-year-old globetrotter, says many Europeans who regard themseves as well-informed believe lynchings are as common in America as ham-and-egg sandwiches—also that Indians brandishing tomahawks still roam many sections of the country.

Lynchings

With sadistic cruelties of the dictator countries ever increasing it is gratifying to learn that this country is making fine progress in reducing the number of lynchings. We are informed that in 1938 there were six persons lynched in this country, which is two less than in 1936 and 1937 and 14 less than in 1935.

A considerable part of the progress made is due to the work of Tuskegee Institute of Alabama. The Institute has gone about it in a sensible way, without rancor and without futile accusations. It has simply pointed to the inhumanity, and to the danger to civilization and has sought to make prominent the shame of it.

1-3-39

Lynching is a matter of crowd psychology. Persons who do not give away to excitement and desire for revenge do not take part in lynchings. Those who realize that due process of law is the foundation upon which our country is built decry taking the law into one's hands.

Most hopeful is the fact disclosed by the Tuskegee department of records and research that in 1938 there were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in northern states and 39 in southern states. In 41 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other instances armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers.

Plainly the public conscience has been awakened. Not only has the urge to lynch declined, but officers sworn to uphold the law are becoming more alive to a sense of duty toward their fellowman and their states and country.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
February 25, 1939

BYWAYS of Birmingham

by HAROLD HELFER

The 'Image' On The Window Pane—

There are supposed to be quite a few houses that are haunted but so far as is known the Pickens County Courthouse at Carrollton is the only courthouse to be considered so afflicted.

On the windows of the courthouse there has appeared the imprint of a man's face. Most of the residents have seen it, as have many visitors.

Some of the natives say that it is the image of a Negro who was lynched at the courthouse some time ago. They say the "shadow face" first appeared on the window shortly after the lynching.

The story goes that that window has been smashed several times by jittery persons who shuddered at the image of the face. But when a new window is placed back in the "image" shows up again.

Charlotte, N. C., News
January 26, 1939

Says Lynchings Retard South

ATLANTA.—(AP)—R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Southern Inter-Racial Commission, said today the South's economic growth had been retarded by lynchings.

Billions of dollars in potential investments, he said, went to recovery of other sections of the nation rather than the South because:

"Other things being equal, no person will choose a lynching center for his home or business."

Eleazer hastened to add, however, the South had made great strides in throwing off the "tradition of mob violence handed down from slavery times." He pointed out the 1938 total of six lynchings was the lowest figure in 56 years.

He expressed his views in an interview on the eve of the annual convention of the association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, an educational group headed by Mrs. Attwood Martin of Louisville, Ky.

Gadsden Ala. Times
March 17, 1939

WHERE A LAW IS NEEDED

THE Charleston News and Courier says that "while thc lynching of six negroes in the Southern states last year was most disgraceful and the lynchers should have been hanged," it cannot refrain from suggesting to "the firm of Wagner, Vann, Farley, White & Guffey that the murder of about one thousand negroes by negroes in these same states in the same year constitutes a problem deserving a little of their attention."

In Alabama, there was not a single lynching last year. Yet there were scores of negroes, men and women, killed by negroes, men and women. There were more negroes killed by negroes than there were whites by whites, whites by negroes and negroes by whites, all lumped together. We agree with the News and Courier. If Congress must interfere with the states, let it pass an anti-negro murder law. That law could have been invoked in Alabama scores of times last year. The anti-lynching law could not have been invoked a single time.

Swainsboro, Ga., Forest-Blade
March 23, 1939

LYNCHING NOT TOLERATED

In recent years debates is Congress on proposed legislation to curb lynchings—that is, murder by irresponsible mobs—has served to make the people of the whole nation conscious of an evil that should be stamped out. The number of lynchings have gradually decreased, due, of course, to the powerful light of publicity turned on the lawless who would trample the laws of the land under their feet.

Since lynching is outlawed and not tolerated by public sentiment in well regulated communities it is nothing but premeditated murder, as defined by our law. It is the work of assassins—those who overpower a single individual and in the night time, generally. It is murder and done in this fashion because those who gather together a mob and seek the victim, guilty or innocent, know it is murder; they cast aside the established processes of law and order in their community; they have no confidence or due care for the laws of the land. They are impatient under aroused passions and, under such circumstances, no member of the lynching mob would, in a court of law, be legally qualified to sit as a judge or juror.

In these Congressional debates, it had been made to appear that the gangster lynchings in the big cities, the industrial riots and the like, are on the same basis as other types of murder or crime by a mob. All are without the sphere of the law and the legally established courts. All forms of lawlessness is condemned by the law and upright citizens generally.

It is pleasing to note that it has been many, many years since we had a lynching by mob in Emanuel County. However, we have had a number of cases, the kind that is usually assigned as the motive for mob murder, that were tried in our county as prescribed under the Constitution. A jury of their peers heard the evidence, in open court and as in other cases, and a verdict of guilty or not guilty made upon legal proof.

Public sentiment in Emanuel County is against murder by mobs or lynchings, as it may be called. A majority of the citizens respect the law, the courts and have confidence in the judgment of the jurors chosen to determine whether or not a person charged with crime is legally guilty or not guilty of a penal offense.

During the term of the present sheriff, Peyton L. Youmans, two or three small parties came to the jail, in the dead hours of the night and demanded that he turn over to them a prisoner. He declined to do so, as any fearless officer would do. It would have been following the line of least resistance for the sheriff to have delivered these prisoners to the mob. But he does not personally or officially contenance lawlessness; he deserves the commendation of the public for doing his duty, in the face of these would be lynching parties or mobs. Also, the good judgement and alertness of Swainsboro's two night policemen, T. S. Tyson and Willie Fields, deserves public commendation.

Emanuel County, we believe, has as efficient county officers as will be found elsewhere. We should recognize their efficiency by giving public recognition, particularly in special instances like those cited.

This being Emanuel County's record, how long will it continue to have the backing of the public? So long as lawlessness is not contenanced and there is a certainty of trial and punishment,—if the person accused of crime is speedily brought to trial,—we can maintain this record for all time. Public sentiment determines our record of commissions and omissions

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LYNCHINGS- 1939
DISCUSSIONS

WHITE PRESS, SOUTHERN

Nazi Persecution, Lynching

Advertiser

4-15-39

Montgomery Ala.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch makes fitting answer to German Nazi newspapers which say the United States has no ground to complain against Nazi persecution of Jews, since lynchings occur in this country.

"It is a measure of the moral degradation of the Nazis that their spokesmen do not see that they are convicting themselves when they admit that their regime is on the level with mob violence in other lands," says the great liberal afternoon daily of the Middle West.

There is one statement in the editorial which challenges special attention. It reads: "The President has been pressing for a law to permit the Federal government to take a hand in applying penalties against lynchings." The Post-Dispatch does not say whether or not it endorses such a proposal. Presumably it does.

Considering this goal of the President, if "mob murders" have decreased in proportion that the St. Louis paper says they have, then why is there a need for Federal interposition in what clearly is an affair of the States?

Now the truth is, that anti-lynching measure in the Congress was put forward to hold or capture the Negro vote in the Northern States, particularly in Illinois and New York. Its advocates of the measure cared not if it brought humiliation to the Southern people, arguing that they, the Southern people, would go on voting the Democratic ticket, whether or no.

If it be true, and it is true, that "no governor ever hesitates to call out the National Guard if convinced it is needed to prevent mob violence," as The Post-Dispatch further says, "where is the excuse for the Federal government to 'butt in' on the situation? Wouldn't such be an aggravation rather than an amelioration?"

The penalties proposed by the measure before the Congress were simply outrageous; a whole community would be put under duress, either personaly or financially, for the misdeeds of the few.

Mob violence is a thing to denounce, to decry, and to put down, but treatment belongs to the individual State and to public opinion, and not to the Federal government, especially in the outrageous manner of the recent measure before the Congress, holding a whole community responsible for the acts of a few.—Houston Post.

BURLINGTON N C TIMES NEWS
TUESDAY JANUARY 3 1939

Let the hips Fall Where They May

CONTEMPORARY COMMENTARY

WHAT IS LYNCHING?

(Fayetteville Observer)

It is notable that in none of the six lynchings, reported by Tuskegee Institute to have taken place in the United States this year were the persons lynched removed from the custody of officers; and there were 42 instances in which officers of the law are credited with having prevented lynchings.

Another gratifying bit of information is that there were two fewer lynchings this year than last year or the year before last and 14 fewer lynching than in 1935.

Better roads, which enable law officers to concentrate more quickly at spots where lynchings are threatened and to remove prisoners more quickly from such spots are accountable to a great degree for the decrease in lynching.

A second important item is the fact that as the prosperity of the South grows, more law officers are employed—and better ones.

A third—and most important reason—is that the South's courageous effort to educate all classes of people is removing the debased ignorance which is a primary cause of the highly provocative crimes which outrage public sentiment to the lynching point.

Unfortunately there is noted no increase in the speed or certainty of justice the absence of which is an important factor in promoting lynching.

Tuskegee Institute, a negro college, frankly is concerned with combatting the lynching of negroes in its dissemination of information concerning them, but it is to be lauded for the factual and unprejudiced manner in which it presents those statistics.

We notice that it lists the causes of the six lynchings it reports as follows:

Rape 1, murder 3, insulting remarks to women 1, and failure to complete payment on funeral bill 1.

Mob slaying for rape, murder and insult are, of course, bona fide lynchings, in which the essential lynch element of substituting informal for formal punishment is present.

On the other hand, we have our doubts if the slaying of a negro because he failed to make the final payment on a funeral bill should be classified as a lynching, because in the offense cited the grievance was a private and not a public one and there is lacking the element of the substitution of private for public justice which seems to us necessary to constitute a lynching.

Killing a man because he refused to make the final payment on a funeral bill seems a straight out and out case of murder and punishable as such.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
January 2, 1939

Jews Urged To Give Nazis No Excuse

Editor, The Post:

The Nazi press is citing the discrimination and lynch law toward Negroes in the United States as an excuse for its persecution of the German and Austrian Jew.

Naturally this is a very flimsy pretext and reduces the Nazi to the same level of the irresponsible hoodlums they criticize, yet it does make our protests sound very hypocritical.

I appeal to my fellow Jews not to discriminate against the helpless Negro and to protest emphatically at any violence toward him not only for humanitarian reasons but also because every outrage against the American Negro may drive another nail in the unfortunate Central European Jew's coffin.

Lynchings strain our business relations with South and Central America seriously. How many Americans realize that a large proportion of the population of South American countries are of mixed blood and that several Central American republics are almost entirely black? Perhaps if some of the unofficial purveyors of so-called justice could understand that it costs them and every one in the United States money each time a barbecue of a human being is held it might cure them of cannibalism.

OSCAR LAPIROW,
Washington, D. C.

Charlotte, N. C., News
January 5, 1939

Rescue in Georgia

After Mississippi, Georgia is the state with the worst lynching record in the country. But even in Georgia there are signs of change, among the most heartening of which is the rescue of the Negro at Royston yesterday.

The two sheriffs in the case definitely had a problem on their hands. Several hundred possemen, armed to the teeth, had surrounded them and their prisoner and were demanding possession of him. If they had given him up, they would have had a better excuse than most Georgia sheriffs have had in tamely yielding their prisoners. But instead they connived with state troopers to get the man away by a ruse, and after a wild chase, placed him safely into Atlanta.

The fact that several carloads of the possemen did chase the police cars is proof, certainly, that there is plenty of lynching sentiment left among the people of Georgia. But also the fact that the police officers behaved as they did is pretty good proof that the better sort of Georgians are increasingly disinclined to approve or condone the crime. For it is a general rule that police officers are a pretty accurate barometer of sentiment among the people at the head of a community.

No Indecision Here

Any of the indecision that may characterize the domestic portion of the President's message to Congress yesterday is conspicuous by its absence from Governor Hoey's address to the Legislature. Here, messires, is an administrator who knows not only what he wants, but knows what he doesn't want. In no case is it anything that the State can't easily pay for.

If the Legislature takes the Governor's recommendations, it will insert another grade in the public school system, gradually, so as not to cost too much in the beginning; slightly increase the pay of teachers with more than eight years' experience; install collegiate courses in law, pharmacy and medicine for Negroes; issue $5,000,000 more in bonds to bring the highways up to date, and put 50 more patterollers to policing them; continue to advertise North Carolina and make ourselves as attractive to outside capital, from a taxation standpoint, as may be possible.

If the Legislature abide by the negative or altogether missing references in the Governor's program, it will *not* finally dispose of the absentee ballot; tamper with the sales tax; undertake the dispensation of more Social Security; bring the State's labor laws into line with those of the Federal Government; or above all put to the people a constitutional amendment against highway diversion, which might later jeopardize the credit of the State.

These, positive and negative, together with incidental references to legal procedures and an abiding faith in the virtue of thrift, economy and work, comprise the Governor's program. He is standing pat, patient and serene, looking forward to the due dates of indebtedness that he may m

Crime Of Lynching Still Declining

Every January newspapers and magazines over the country receive from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, a letter containing statistics on lynchings which occurred in the United States during the preceding year. These statistics are compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, the Alabama college for Negroes that was founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington. The statistics are not "doctored" in any way; the Institute's Department of Records and Research simply compiles the figures and sends out a factual summary. The information may be accepted as wholly accurate and completely unbiased.

1-18-39

Dr. Patterson this year released information concerning lynchings for the year 1938. "I find," he writes "according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were six persons lynched in 1938." All the six persons lynched were Negroes. There were three lynchings in Mississippi, one in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Louisiana. There were no lynchings in Texas, none in any of the other Southern States.

* * * *

No acceptable excuse can be made for the fact that six persons met death at the hands of mobs in the United States last year. Mob rule cannot be justified. Six lynchings are exactly six too many. At the same time, for the sake of making the record complete, it should be noted that there were fewer lynchings in this country last year than in any other year since records of this crime began to be kept in 1882. The number of persons lynched in 1938 is two less than the number lynched in 1937; it is three less than the number lynched in 1936; it is fourteen less than the number lynched in 1935. The crime of lynching is decreasing at such a rate as to justify the hope that it soon will reach the vanishing point.

It is not only in recent years that the steady decrease in this crime has made itself evident. The trend has been downward for 50 years. During the half century from 1889 to 1938, inclusive, there was a total of 3,654 lynchings in the United States Nearly 44 per cent of all those lynchings occurred during the first decade of the 50-year period! There were more lynchings during the 13 years from 1889 to 1901, inclusive, than there were during the 37 years from 1902 to 1938.

The figures tell the story. For the 10 years ending with 1898 there were 1,604 lynchings in the United States; for the 10 years ending with 1908, there were 909 lynchings; for the 10 years ending with 1918, there were 615 lynchings; for the 10 years ending with 1928, there were 388; and for the 10 years ending with 1938, there were 138. These figures show beyond the shadow of any doubt that the crime of lynchings is steadily declining. They show that the lynchings which occurred during the last 10 years amount to less than 36 per cent of the lynchings which occurred during the preceding 10 years In turn, lynchings for the 10 years ending with 1928 amounted to less than 64 per cent of the lynchings for the 10 years ending with 1918. And the lynchings r the 10 years ending with 1918 amounted to ss than 68 per cent of the lynchings for the preceding 10 years. Finally, lynchings for the 10 years ending with 1908 amounted to less than 57 per cent of the lynchings for the 10 years ending with 1898.

Effect of this steady decline in the number of lynchings occurring during each 10-year period becomes clear when figures for the last 10 years are compared with figures for the first 10 years of the half century. As has been stated, there were 1,604 lynchings during the 10 years from 1889 to 1898; and there were 138 lynchings from 1929 to 1938. What this means is that the number of lynchings for the last 10 years amounts to less than 9 per cent of the number of lynchings for the 10 years ending with 1898. Does this not reveal unmistakable progress in the effort to eliminate completely this crime against the laws of man and God? Within a period of 50 years the average number of lynchings per year has been cut down from more than a hundred and sixty to less than 14. Is there any other crime that is being reduced with comparable rapidity?

Now, this record is being made, of course without "benefit" of a Federal anti-lynching law. Strenuous efforts have been made in recent years to get such legislation through Congress, but so far those efforts have not succeeded. It should not be thought, however, that proponents of this legislation have given up. An Associated Press dispatch from Washington this week makes it clear that they have done nothing of the kind This dispatch stated that Senator Robert F. Wagner (Dem.) of New York, Frederick Van Nuys (Dem.) of Indiana and, Arthur Capper (Rep.) of Kansas have announced that they will submit new anti-lynching legislation in the current session of Congress. "Wagner said, however," the dispatch explains, "that it would be devoid of some features which opponents found objectionable in the Wagner-Van Nuys bill of last session." The AP story continues: "Senator Wagner said two changes had been made, which should eliminate some criticism. One, he said, classed gangster killings as lynchings. Southern senators objected because the previous bill exempted these killings. He said the second change placed the burden of proof on the victims or survivors of lynchings in damage suits against counties where lynchings take place."

Essential features of the proposed new legislation seem, however, to be much the same as those of the old. The bill to be placed before this session will provide that Federal officials must prosecute State and local officers for failure to try to prevent mob killings, and that victims or their heirs may recover from $2,000 to $10,000 damages against counties in which lynchings take place. The two changes mentioned by Senator Wagner would do nothing at all to modify the fundamental characteristic of this proposed legislation. For the effect of this bill, if enacted into law, would be to take away from the States of the Union powers which are rightfully theirs and to transfer those powers to the Government at Washington. Enactment of the so-called anti-lynching legislation would be one more tremendous stride toward centralization, and it is on this basis that the legislation should be opposed by all Americans everywhere who are convinced of the necessity of maintaining the rights of the States.

* * * *

What real need is there for a Federal anti-lynching law? Could it possibly have the effect of reducing the crime of lynching more rapidly than it already is being reduced? Might it not, in fact, have the effect of nullifying part of the gains already being made? Certainly, there is nothing at all to justify the contention of proponents of such a law that its enactment would result in virtually immediate elimination of the crime. Some of these proponents are completely sincere, no doubt, in their support of anti-lynching legislation. But some of them, it is to be feared, are less concerned about reducing or eliminating lynching than they are about building up their political fences and bringing about further centralization of government.

Most convincing evidence that the proposed anti-lynching statute would not prevent lynchings is contained in the suggested law itself. For the main feature of the measure is based on a wholly fallacious idea: the idea that local officers customarily put forth but little effort to prevent lynchings. This is the idea suggested by the provision that Federal officials must prosecute State and local officers for failure to try to prevent mob killings. That theory has no foundation in fact. It is simply not true that local officers, generally speaking, fail to give adequate protection to prisoners in their custody.

Not one of the six persons lynched last year was in the hands of the law. Moreover, officers of the law prevented a number of lynchings during the year. That is made clear by the following paragraph from the letter sent out this month by Dr. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute: "There were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern States and 39 in Southern States . . A total of 53 persons — three white men, 49 Negro men, and one Negro woman—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs." That was the record for 1938. A year ago Dr. Patterson reported that in 1937 "there were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," thus saving 77 persons from death at the hands of mobs. In 1936 there were 47 instances in which officers prevented lynchings with a total of 79 persons saved from mobs.

So the record goes. There is nothing in the least reasonable about the assumption that enactment of anti-lynching legislation by the Federal Government would make local officers more diligent in their efforts to prevent lynchings. They already are diligent in such efforts.

* * * *

The issue here is clearly not between those who are indifferent to the crime of lynching on the one hand and those who are vigorously opposed to it on the other. Responsible Southerners bow their heads with shame when a lynching blots the name of any State in the South. They do not claim that a record of six lynchings in a year is a good record. They do claim that it represents progress in the continuing effort to reduce this crime to the vanishing point. And they are justified in that claim.

But the real issue here has little or nothing to do with the crime of lynching. The issue is a phase of a much larger conflict—that between advocates of State rights and advocates of centralism. This is the most momentous conflict of our time, and the manner in which it is resolved will determine finally whether or not there is to be continued in this nation that system of government under which the United States has grown great during the 150 years of its existence. Passage by Congress of anti-lynching legislation would represent a victory for the centralists. For that reason such legislation should be resisted to the limit by the South—by all Americans who wish the federal form of government to be maintained in this Union of States.—Booth Mooney in The Texas Weekly, Dallas.

Macon Ga. Telegraph
January 28, 1939

Patrol Preventing Mob Violence

Bacon said of prophecies that we note when they hit but never when they miss. In and out of the congress of the United States we have ample reminders whenever a lynching takes place in the South, but we hear little of the many successful efforts on the part of citizens and officers of the law to prevent lynchings and to give a suspect a fair trial, however horrible his alleged offense may be.

Major Phil Brewster, commissioner of public safety, spoke Thursday before the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. He gave details of several instances in which the state highway patrol has done good work in the prevention of lynching.

In one disturbance he said patrolmen seized a Negro from 1,500 angry citizens in a North Georgia town and spirited him to Atlanta. In another instance a highway patrolman risked his life in a gun battle with a Negro, capturing him before a crowd of pursuers reached the spot. The patrolman was wounded in the battle, but managed to elude his pursuers and take his prisoner to a jail in another section.

Major Brewster expressed the hope that the highway patrol would be given radio communication equipment in the next few months, by means of which it would be able to do more effective work, not only in preventing crimes of violence, but in enforcing the laws, generally.

The cases in point were simply those in which the highway patrol engaged. The sheriffs and other enforcement officers would be able to cite other cases in which successful efforts were made to prevent mob violence.

It was brought out in the course of the meeting that there were only six lynchings in the country last year. In 1937 there were eight. The record last year was the best since 1882. The newspapers, churches and other organizations were given credit for the campaigns which have almost brought about the total elimination of mob violence in the South.

All this does not prevent certain Northern senators and representatives from reviving the anti-lynching bill this year in congress. There can be no doubt that this is merely a political gesture. The hope is to win the support of the Negro vote in New York city Pennsylvania, and a few other states.

If the sponsors of this bill were sincere in deploring mob violence they would not specifically exempt from the terms of the bill such deaths from mob violence as have taken place as an incident to radical activities in the industrial centers.

Mob violence of that kind constitutes lynching quite as truly as anything that ever happened in the South.

We cannot prevent these partisans from playing politics with their bill, but fortunately the rules committee of the house is again dominated by men who will do their best to strangle any such measure, and if this fails they will filibuster to the end of the session.

INTERNATIONAL
LABOR
DEFENSE

25 LYNCHED IN 1939

(TABULATION OF RECORDED LYNCHINGS IN THE UNITED STATES)

(4 Negroes - 1 white)

In addition to the authenticated lynchings listed below, an N.A.A.C.P investigator's report reveals at least 20 "quiet lynchings" in the State of Mississippi - unreported, committed by "committees of people" who took their victims to the woods "without publicity". All Negroes.

DATE and PLACE	NAME OF VICTIM	CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE LYNCHING
February, 1939 Eldorado, ARKANSAS	WALTER LEE FRAZIER (Negro)	Alleged to have molested white couples. Shot
March, 16, 1939 Woodcliff GEORGIA	*Identity unknown (Negro)	Accused of having "said something to a white woman that she didn't like". Snatched from a freight train. Body found in a swamp with a note pinned to chest, warning other Negroes. Routine investigation, and no arrests.
April 1, 1939 Panama City, FLORIDA	MILES BROWN (white, age 28)	Convicted of 1st degree murder the night before. Taken from jail by masked men and shot. The body was found on a country road.
April 28, 1939 Daytona Beach FLORIDA	LEE SNELL (Negro age 43)	Murdered by the 2 brothers of a 12 year old boy, whom Snell, a taxi driver had accidentally run over and killed. Lynchers tried and acquitted.
May 8, 1939 Canton, MISSISSIPPI	JOE RODGERS (Negro)	Lumber worker and deacon of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Shot, tortured with hot irons, brutally cut, his body thrown into the Pearl River. This followed Rogers' refusal to accept a $5.50 weekly reduction from his wages for rent of a company cabin he did not occupy. Canton was the scene of another lynching last July

* Victim at first reported as CHARLEY WILLIAMS, age 28, several months later it was disclosed that Williams was alive.

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16

WORKERS KILLED IN ECONOMIC STRUGGLES

(TABULATION OF RECORDED KILLINGS IN THE UNITED STATES - 1939)

DATE and PLACE	NAME OF VICTIM	CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE KILLING
1. January 3 Tulepo, MISS.	DAN BISHOP Age 50	Mortally wounded by police who sought to evict him and his aged mother from their home
2. April 30 Zanesville, OHIO	JOHN ABRAHAMS Age 24	Coal miner shot during a battle between union and non-union workers at Reitler mine.
3. May Harlan, KY.	BEECHER TURNER Age 35 Negro	Miner shot and killed by 2 deputy sheriffs after being picked up on a minor charge. The deputies claimed he was trying to escape.
4. June Des Moines, IOWA	JOHN CHARLTON	Killed during packing house workers strike.
5. Spring (?) New Orleans, LA.	WALTER EGGLESTON	N.M.U. official. Disappeared. Body later found in Mississippi River. At first reported as unidentified.
6. July 6 New Orleans, LA.	JOHN SYRNICK Age 21	N.M.U. member, Beaten by anti-labor "goons" as he was leaving main post office on June 28. Died in hospital
7. July 12 Harlan, KY	DOCK CALDWELL	Killed by National Guard in attack on U.M.W. of A. picket line at Mahon-Ellison Coal Co.
8. July 14 Minneapolis, MINN.	EMIL AUGUST BERGSTROM Age 60	Killed by police gunfire in attack on WPA workers participating in nation-wide stoppage protest against
9. July 15 Stanfield, KY.	BILL ROBERTS Age 35	Shot by Willie Fee, Mahon-Ellison Coal Co., scab.
10. - 11. Wallins Creek, KY.	FRANK BRYANT age 30 BRADLEY SIMPSON 25	Shot by "unknown" assailants in National Guard patrolled area
12. July 15 Chicago, ILL.	ERIC HESSLER	Financial secretary, Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee, #105. Died of fractured skull in hospital where he was finally found after mysterious disappearance on night before he was to testify before NLRB against International Harvester Co.
13. July 16 Harlan, KY.	DANIEL NOE Age 39	Second National Guard victim to die after battle of July 12.
14. August 24 Granville Summit, PA.	PAUL HICKS	Member Dairy Farmers Union. Died of injuries received when scab truck crashed into milk farmers picket line at West Birmington, Pa.

15. Sept. 15 Violet, LA.	MRS. J. B. TREADWAY Age 54	Shot to death on picket line at Dunbar and DuKate Cannery (shrimp peelers). Killers identified by other pickets and from newspaper photo taken at scene of crime. No action taken against them.
16. Sept. 17 New Orleans, LA.	PHILIP CAREY Age 29	Gulf Port Division, officer NMU (secretary-treasurer, Stewards). Beaten by 3 members "chain-gang goon" squad and then shot to death in presence of 4 witnesses who heard Carey address one assailant as "Scotty". NMU officials charge police with knowledge of killers' identity. On Oct. 21 La. police named William C. McQuistion, Dies' Committee witness as "wanted for murder," in connection with this and other cases.
17. Oct. 31 Chicago, ILL.	PAUL PIETRZKOWSKI Age 50	Leader of a minority group in printers union. Shot to death in front of his own home.
18. Oct. 18 Canton, N. Y.	CHARLES M. ANDERSON	Member Dairy Farmers Union. Shot through shoulder during milk strike while standing with crowd of striking farmers outside Sheffield Plant at Heuvelton, N. Y.
Dec. 18 Newark, N. J.	JOHN SASSO (Not clear whether or not this killing resulted from a labor dispute)	Defeated organizer Local 478 Teamsters Union A.F. of L. Shot to death in tavern. Theodore Nalikowski elected in his place, slashed with knife across back and right arm.

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FLORIDA

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LYNCHINGS-1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT OF LYNCHERS

Officials Push Florida Lynch Case Inquiry

Advertiser

4-4-39

PANAMA CITY, FLA., April 3.—(AP)—Assistant Attorney General Tyrus Norwood came here today from Tallahassee to assist county officials in investigating the lynching Saturday of Miles W. Brown, youthful convicted slayer of Roy Van Kleeck.

Meanwhile, Sheriff John Scott said no evidence of value had been found toward establishing the identity of several men who tied up Jailer Johnny Goodwin and took Brown from his cell, asserting they were displeased because the youth drew a life sentence instead of death in the electric chair.

Montgomery Ala

Brown's bullet-pierced body was found early Saturday near a roadway five miles from the jail. A coroner's jury viewed the body and recessed until Wednesday when the grand jury .se has been resummoned to make an inquiry.

Norwood, said Governor Fred P. Cone and Attorney General George Couper Gibbs were determined to investigate the slaying of Brown and law enforcement conditions generally in Bay County.

The Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Brown, grief stricken parents of the slain youth, issued a statement today saying they felt no ill-will toward anyone.

"As for our son, Miles," said the father, a retired minister from North Carolina, "he was prepared to go and had told me and his wife that 'there was nothing between him and his God.'

"I appreciate the fine spirit in which Circuit Judge E. C. Welch presided over the entire trial. The conduct of the trial was fair in every way and I want to tell the judge, personally, that I appreciate his attitude.

"Miles was distressed over his act and had told both me and his mother that were he permitted a jail sentence he expected to make good. . .

"I feel that he was prepared to atone for his mistake and his life

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Convict Lynched

Abducted from the County Jail at Panama City, Fla., by a band of masked men, Miles W. Brown (above), convicted slayer of Roy Van Kleeck, Panama City merchant, was shot to death. His body was found about five miles from the jail.

FLORIDA LYNCH PROBE ORDERED

Convict Abducted, Slain By Band Of Masked Men

[illegible]

PANAMA CITY, Fla.—(AP)—Miles W. Brown, 28-year-old son of a retired minister, was shot to death here Saturday by a band of masked men who abducted him from jail after expressing dissatisfaction because he failed to receive the death penalty in a murder trial.

4-3-39

Brown was convicted Friday night of slaying Roy Van Kleeck, in whose hardware store he formerly worked. The jury's recommendation of mercy made a life sentence mandatory and saved him from the electric chair.

Jailer Johnny Goodwin declared "four or five masked men" stole into the room where he was sleeping, bound and gagged him and took his keys to open Brown's cell.

Goodwin said one of the men told him "the law didn't do justice but we will. We don't want to hurt you."

Birmingham News

Brown's bullet-pierced body, clad in pajamas, was found a few hours later on a country road. It was Florida's first lynching since last August.

Ala

At Tallahassee, Gov. Fred P. Cone ordered State Atty. Gen. George Couper Gibbs to take charge of the investigation and "bring to justice the murderers of Miles W. Brown."

The body of Van Kleeck, well-to-do merchant and former county commissioner, was found in a bayou near here Jan. 16. Brown was arrested at Jacksonville several days later, and Sheriff John Scott said he confessed the slaying.

Little Is Achieved In Lynching Probe

Advertiser

PANAMA CITY, FLA., April 2.—(AP)—Bay County officers reported little headway today in an investigation of the lynching of Miles W. Brown, convicted Friday of slaying his former employer.

4-3-39

Expressing dissatisfaction because Brown, 28-year-old son of a retired minister, failed to receive a death sentence, a band of masked men early yesterday took Brown from his jail cell, shot him to death and left his body on a roadside.

Montgomery Ala

Sheriff John Scott said his office was "checking everything" but so far "we haven't learned anything for sure."

"The way the job was handled, there was nothing left behind," he said.

A circuit court jury found Brown guilty of the first degree murder of Roy Van Kleeck, former Bay County commissioner and hardware merchant, and recommended mercy, making life imprisonment mandatory.

Meanwhile, funeral services were held today for Brown. The body will be sent to Miami, home of the widow.

CLEWS LACKING IN FLORIDA LYNCHING

Age-Herald

Convicted Murderer Slain By Masked Men

4-3-39

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Birmingham Ala

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"The way the job was handled, there was nothing left behind," he said.

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Jailer Johnny Goodwin declared "four or five masked men" stole into the room where he was sleeping, seized him, left him bound and gagged after taking keys to open Brown's cell.

"The law didn't do justice, but we will," he said they told him. "We don't want to hurt you."

Clad in pajamas, Brown's bullet-pierced body was found a few hours later five miles from the jail.

Gov. Fred P. Cone, at Tallahassee, ordered State Atty. Gen. Couper Gibbs to take active charge of the investigation.

It was the first Florida lynching this year.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
April 2, 1939

LABOR BODY ASKS PROBE IN LYNCHING

Protests of Panama City Affair Reaches Andrews, Pepper

By The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE — The Florida office of the International Labor Defense called upon State and county officials yesterday for investigation, prosecution and conviction of persons responsible for the early morning lynching of Miles W. Brown at Panama City.

Telegrams also were sent to Senators Pepper and Andrews of Florida asking them to support passage of a Federal anti-lynching bill.

Brown, convicted Friday of slaying his former employer by a jury which recommended mercy, was taken from his jail cell and shot to death by a band of masked men.

Margaret Bailey, State Representative, said she had telegraphed Sheriff John Scott, commending "Panama City officials for prompt action following the lynching" and urging the coroner's jury "to win national recognition thru investigation prosecution and conviction of mob murderers."

CALL ON CONE

"Example can be set to prove that whitewash of lynchings is not characteristic of your city and record for bringing lynchers to justice can not be established by your law enforcement bodies," the telegram said.

In a message to Governor Cone, the organization said:

"We urge you to personally aid the investigation of the coroner's jury, established to prosecute and convict the guilty murderers. We condemn lynchings as savage denial of civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution and protest against flagrant defiance of Florida law enforcement bodies."

Telegrams sent to Senators Pepper and Andrews read:

"With lynching of Miles Brown in Panama City this morning Florida is now responsible in the eyes of the nation for two lynchings within eight months. We urge you as our Congressional representatives to support passage of a Federal anti-lynch bill as the only means of ending forever the recurrent disgrace of the good name of our State."

The 28-year-old convicted slayer was shot to death after a band of masked men, expressing dissatisfaction because he had failed to receive a death sentence, abducted him from the county jail.

Brown, was a retired minister's son, convicted Friday night of the first degree murder of Roy Van Kleeck, in whose hardware store he formerly worked. The jury's recommendation of mercy made a life sentence mandatory and saved him from the electric chair.

Jailer Johnny Goodwin declared "four or five masked men" stole into the room where he was sleeping, seized him and left him bound and gagged as they took his keys to open Brown's cell. He said one of the men told him "the law didn't do justice but we will. We don't want to hurt you."

Brown's bullet-pierced body, clad in pajamas, was found a few hours later on a country road five miles from the jail.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
April 4, 1939

LYNCHING PROBE PUSHED

PANAMA CITY, April 4.—Assistant Attorney General Tyrus Norwood came here Monday from Tallahassee to assist county officials in investigating the lynching Saturday of Miles W. Brown, youthful, convicted slayer of Roy Van Kleeck.

Meanwhile, Sheriff John Scott said no evidence of value has been found toward establishing the identity of several men who tied up Jailer Johnny Goodwin and took Brown from his cell, asserting they were displeased because the youth drew a life sentence instead of death in the electric chair.

Brown's bullet-pierced body was found early Saturday near a roadway five miles from the jail.

FOUR ARE BEING HELD IN FLORIDA LYNCHING

4-12-39

PANAMA CITY, Fla., April 11. (AP)—Authorities disclosed today that four persons—a white man and three negroes—are being held in connection with the lynching of Miles W. Brown, convicted slayer.

Brown was taken from the county jail early April 2 by masked men. His bullet-riddled body was found by a roadside five miles away. The jailer who said the men trussed him up and took his keys quoted them as expressing dissatisfaction that Brown had been given life imprisonment instead of the death penalty. He had been convicted the night before for the murder of Roy Van Kleeck, his former employer.

Names of the persons held were not disclosed.

Mobile Ala Press
April 12, 1939

4 Held in Lynching At Panama City Jail

PANAMA CITY, Fla., April 12.—Four persons, a white man and three colored men, are held in connection with the lynching of Miles Brown, convicted slayer of Roy Van Kleeck, officers disclosed today.

Authorities did not reveal the names of the persons detained in the case, but they said no charges had been placed against them.

Brown was taken from the county jail in the early morning hours of April 2, by several masked men. At daybreak his bullet-riddled body was found on a roadside five miles from town.

The jailer, from whose custody Brown was taken, said the masked men expressed dissatisfaction that Brown had not been given the death penalty for the slaying.

Birmingham Ala Age-Herald
April 3, 1939

CLEWS LACKING IN FLORIDA LYNCHING

Convicted Murderer Slain By Masked Men

PANAMA CITY, Fla., April 2—(AP)—Bay County officers reported little headway Sunday in an investigation of the lynching of Miles W. Brown, convicted Friday of slaying his former employer.

Expressing dissatisfaction because Brown, 28-year-old son of a retired minister, failed to receive a death sentence, a band of masked men early Saturday took Brown from his jail cell, shot him to death and left his body on a roadside.

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It was the first Florida lynching this year.

'Murder' Is Verdict In Florida Lynching

Advertiser

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA., May 2.—(AP)—A coroner's jury investigating the lynching of Lee Snell, negro taxi driver, returned a verdict today of "murder at the hands of Earl and Everett Blackwelder." 5-3-39

The verdict came shortly after the Blackwelders surrendered to Sheriff S. E. Stone and were pointed out by Constable James Durden as the two men who seized and shot the negro Saturday while he was being taken to jail.

The negro's taxi had fatally injured the Blackwelder's 12-year-old brother, Benny.

NOTHING DONE ABOUT FLORIDA LYNCHING

Courier

But This Time It's a White Man, and the Governor's Demand for Action Falls on Deaf Ears—Which Proves . . . !

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Apr. 13—(Special)—Though a week has passed since perpetration of a crime without parallel in this State, the forcible taking from the county jail here and lynching of Miles W. Brown, 28-year-old white man, under sentence of life imprisonment for the murder of Roy Van Kleeck, a former employer, a special investigation ordered by Gov. F. P. Cone, conducted in cooperation with one instituted by local authorities, has admittedly accomplished nothing toward establishment of the identity of the lynchers.

The jury that returned a verdict of guilty of first degree murder against Brown, who was the son of a retired minister, recommended mercy, which made mandatory the imposing of a sentence of life in the penitentiary, instead of death in the electric chair. It was early last Saturday morning, less than 24 hours after Brown had been sentenced, that a band of masked white men, composed of only four or five members, according to John Goodwin, jailer, entered his room while he was asleep, bound and gagged him, took his keys and hurried away, one of them remarking as he left the room, "the law didn't do justice but we will."

Some time later, the jailer, after working himself free of his bonds gave the alarm. Finding Brown's cell empty, authorities began a search for him. Early in the afternoon, his body, pierced by many bullets, was found beside a lumber trail in a piney-woods section about 5 miles from here.

The lynching of Brown was Florida's first for 1939.

Governor Orders Probe

Mob Thought Jury Did Not Do Justice

Journal

PANAMA CITY, Fla.—Floridians lynched a white man Saturday night to score the first lynching of the year in this state in 1939. The victim was Miles W. Brown, 28 year old convicted slayer of his former employer.

The jury which brought in a verdict of first degree murder recommended mercy, which made it mandatory upon the court to impose a life sentence on Brown.

The mob thought that Brown should have gotten the electric chair, so they took the law into their own hands.

To the jailer a member of the mob remarked "The law did not do justice but we will."

A group of masked men entered the jail, overpowered the keeper, took Brown out, and killed him. His bullet-pierced body, clad in pajamas, was found a few hours later on a country road, five miles from the jail.

At Tallahassee, Governor Fred P. Cone ordered State Attorney General, George Cooper Gibbs to investigate the lynching. The governor also telegraphed State Attorney John W. Carter, who prosecuted Brown, and Sheriff John T. Scott "to do all that you can to assist in bringing to justice the murderers of Miles W. Brown." Carter, in a caustic criticism of the jury, said, "So long as the jury box, from which jurors for the trial of criminal cases are drawn is largely filled with the names of jurors who do not possess the moral stamina to return verdicts warranted by the evidence, such things as this will be frequently repeated." "The people are demanding that juries do their duty," he asserted.

Brown was the son of the Rev. G. C. Brown, formerly of Raleigh, North Carolina.

I. L. D. PROTESTS

The Florida office of the International Labor Defense wired Governor Cone, urging that he personally aid the investigators.

This organization sent the following telegram to Senators Pepper and Andrews: "The lynching of Miles Brown in Panama City this morning, Florida is now responsible in the eyes of the nation for two lynchings within eight months. We urge you, as our Congressional representatives, to support passage of the Federal Anti-Lynching bill as the only means of ending forever the recurrent disgrace of the good name of our State."

Florida Grand Jury Indicts 2 In Lynching

Advertiser

DELAND, FLA., May 4.—(AP)—The Volusia County Grand Jury returned a true bill today charging Everett and Earl Blackwelder with first degree murder in the lynching of Lee Snell, negro taxi driver, on the Daytona Beach-Deland Road last Saturday.

The Blackwelders were charged with seizing Snell from Constable James Durden and shooting him to death while the negro was being taken to jail after his taxi killed Benny Blackwelder, 12-year-old brother of Earl and Everett

Daytona Lynchers Are Jailed For Murder

Northwest Enterprise
5-12-39
Seattle Wash.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., May 10 (CNA) — Everett and Earl Blackwelder were being held on murder charges this week after a coroner's jury found they "did willfully kill" Lee Snell, Negro taxi driver.

The brothers, who had been in hiding since the lynching of Snell, leisurely surrendered after attending the funeral services of a brother accidentally killed by Snell's taxi. Local authorities had made no effort to arrest the men prior to their surrender.

The Blackwelders seized Snell from a constable on April 30 while the taxi driver was being taken to a hearing on manslaughter charges in Benny Blackwelder's death.

Snell, a World War veteran, is survived by a wife and adopted child.

Police Constable James Durden testified before the coroner's jury that he was transporting Snell to DeLand from Daytona after the Blackwelders had made threats against Snell's life. He positively identified the two brothers as the slayers of Snell.

Shot in Back

"I was about three and a half miles west of the city," Durden testified, "when a Ford coupe sped past me and then stopped and turned across the road about 100 yards ahead of me."

The Blackwelder brothers, according to Durden, attacked Snell who attempted to flee when Durden got out of the car. One of the brothers, Everett, shot Snell in the leg and he fell to the ground while the other brother, Earl, then walked over to the wounded man "and fired two or three times into his back" with his rifle.

Snell had been involved in the accidental death of 12-year-old Ben Blackwelder, Jr., brother of the two lynchers, whose bicycle collided with Snell's cab on April 30. Snell stopped his car immediately to help the youngster, and was held by police for county authorities.

Protests Force Action

The coroner's jury rendered its verdict of wilful murder after the International Labor Defense accused the jury of delaying action against the accused murderers in the hope that public indignation over the outrage would die down and thus permit a whitewashing.

Jacksonville representatives of the I.L.D. wired Florida's Senators, Representative Hendricks and Attorney General Frank Murphy at Washington, and Governor Cone demanding action against the two lynchers.

The wire to Murphy said: "Second Florida lynching in one month marks complete breakdown of civil rights in this state. Request your intervention to secure constitutional guarantees to residents of Florida."

GOV. CONE ASSIGNS CASE TO NORWOOD

Courier
5-27-39
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., May 25—(Special) — At the request of Gov. Cone, Attorney General George C. Gibbs has assigned Assistant Attorney General T. A. Norwood to serve as special prosecutor for the State at the trials of Everett Blackwelder and Earl Blackwelder, white men and brothers, charged with the lynching near DeLand of Lee Snell, taxicab driver.

In an accident that occurred at a street intersection in DeLand the cab driven by Snell collided with a bicycle ridden by a younger brother of Earl and Lee Blackwelder, and the boy was fatally injured.

Arresting Snell, who made no effort to escape, the Sheriff was taking his prisoner to jail in an automobile, when another car overtook him, blocked the road, and two men springing out of the machine overpowered him, dragged Snell from the officer's machine and shot him to death.

The killing took place in broad daylight.

On the positive identification by the Sheriff of the Blackwelder brothers as the killers, a posse was organized and a search for them begun. Both fled and went into hiding, but eventually surrendered the day after their younger brother's funeral. Held without bond, they were later indicted by the grand jury for first degree murder.

Brothers Are Acquitted In Slaying Of Negro

Advertiser
5-28-39
Montgomery, Ala.

DELAND, FLA., May 27.—(AP)—A circuit court jury late today acquitted Earl and Everett Blackwelder of first degree murder charges growing out of the slaying of Lee Snell, negro driver of a taxicab that struck and killed their 12-year-old brother, Benny Blackwelder.

The verdict was returned an hour and six minutes after the case was given to the 12-man jury.

Snell was being brought from Daytona Beach to the county jail here by Constable James Durden on April 29 when two men intercepted his automobile, took Snell and shot him to death by the roadside.

Durden, one of seven State witnesses who testified today said he "thought" the Blackwelders were the men that seized Snell. At a recent coroner's inquest he identified the pair as the men.

Defense counsel did not place any witnesses on the stand.

Washington, D. C. Post
May 15, 1939

Marcantonio Asks Lynching Inquiry

Representative Marcantonio (American Labor), New York, asked the Justice Department yesterday to investigate what he described as the lynching of a colored taxi driver at Daytona Beach, Fla., last month.

Marcantonio, acting as president of the International Labor Defense, made his request in a letter to Attorney General Murphy.

A constable told a coroner's jury that Lee Snell, the cab driver, was taken from him by two men and shot to death. Snell had been arrested after a taxi cab struck and killed a 12-year-old white boy.

Free Two Men In Lynching Of Vet

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.-5-29-39

DeLAND, Fla.—(SNS)—A verdict of acquittal was returned here Saturday by a circuit court jury, freeing two white men listed as Earl and Everette Blackwelder, who were charged with the brutal lynch-murder of Lee Snell, World War veteran and taxi driver who was shot to death April 29.

Snell was snatched from the custody of Constable James Durden while being transported from Daytona Beach to Deland, where the county jail is located, by three men, two of whom were identifiied as the Blackwelder brothers, and his body was riddled with bullets from sawed-off shotguns.

The slain man had been arrested after his taxi struck 13-year-old Benny Blackwelder, fatally wounding him. The boy was riding a bicycle at the intersection of Second Avenue and Keech street.

The white youth was said to have been headed north on Keech when his bicycle collided with the sedan driven by Snell in the middle of the intersection.

KNOCKED 25 FEET

Investigating officers said the boy was knocked about 25 feet and that Snell brought his car to a halt after it had gone about 35 feet.

The injured youth was rushed to Halifax Hospital within five minutes after the accident but was pronounced dead soon after arrival.

Constable Durden stated that he was traveling about a mile west of the local airport when an automobile driven by the lynching group pulled past him and blocked the road. Then the occupants pulled Snell out and shot him down, he said.

Feeling ran high against the Blackwelder brothers who were identified as members of the lynching party of three and they later were arrested and indicted on charges of first degree murder, but were freed of the charge here Saturday.

JUDGE HASTIE BACK IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Former Judge William Hastie is home in Washington, having little or nothing to say on the Virgin island situation where he, as the only Negro ever to be so honored, occupied the federal bench. His resignation to return to Washington to become dean of Howard University Law school, occasioned considerable speculation as to the cause leading to his decision.

Free Two Men In Lynching Of Vet

East Tenn. News

[illegible]

DeLAND, Fla.—(SNS)—A verdict of acquittal was returned here Saturday by a circuit court jury, freeing two white men listed as Earl and Everette Blackwelder, who were charged with the brutal lynch-murder of Lee Snell, World War veteran and taxi driver who was shot to death April 29. Knoxville, Tenn.

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GRAND JURY MEETS IN SPECIAL SESSION AND ACTS SWIFTLY

Courier 5-13-39

Pittsburgh Pa.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., May 11. (Special)—Indictments charging murder in the first degree have been returned by the grand jury meeting in special session here, against Earl Blackwelder and Everett Blackwelder, white men, for the lynching last Saturday of Lee Snell, taxi driver, several hours after Benjamin Blackwelder, 12, younger brother of the two indicted, was killed in a collision at a street intersection between the bicycle he was riding and the cab driven by Snell. The Blackwelder brothers, who waived preliminary hearing and entered "not guilty" pleas, are being held without bond pending trial, date for which has not yet been set.

CONSTABLE IDENTIFIES WHITE MEN AS KILLERS

Following the fatal accident, Snell, who made no attempt to escape, was arrested by Constable James Durden, who started with his prisoner to DeLand to commit him to jail there. The constable testified before a coroner's jury that Snell was slain by Earl Blackwelder and Everett Blackwelder, both of whom he named as having been positively identified by him.

The officer said he had proceeded only a few miles toward DeLand when an automobile approaching from the rear, overtook and passed him, and was then swung across the road blocking it and forcing him to stop.

Two men who he said he recognized as the Blackwelder brothers, later indicted, sprang from the other car, one armed with a shotgun, the other with a rifle, and though he made a fight to protect his prisoner, overpowered him. According to the constable, Snell made a vain attempt to save himself by flight.

BOTH BROTHERS FIRED FATAL BLASTS TO VICTIM

Leaping from the automobile, he said, the cab driver started to run but had taken only a few steps when Earl Blackwelder shot him with a rifle. Snell staggered but kept on, he said, until he was felled by a charge from a shotgun fired by Everett Blackwelder.

As Snell lay on the ground, he said, Earl Blackwelder shot him again, and the brothers then reentered their automobile and drove away.

In addition to the constable, there were other witnesses to the killing, including a group of motorists and several Negroes. All who could be identified were called to testify at the inquest and will also be required to give testimony at the trial of the accused, it is understood. As soon as details of the slaying became generally known, Florida representatives of the International Labor Defense filed protests with state and federal authorities, and requested a federal investigation. The lynching of Snell was the second to occur in the state within a month. A young white man, taken from jail at Panama City and shot to death by a band of masked men, was the first victim.

SURRENDERED AFTER FUNERAL OF BROTHER

Though city and county officers searched for the Blackwelder brothers throughout Saturday night and early Sunday, no trace of them could be found, and their father, a farmer, refused to give any information as to where they might be in hiding.

He said, however, he believed they would give themselves up to authorities following the funeral of their younger brother, killed in the taxi-bicycle crash.

The funeral was held early Sunday afternoon, and the two men who were being sought, voluntarily surrendered to Sheriff S. E Stone, Sunday evening.

ILD ACCUSES KLANSMEN OF INTIMIDATION

Defender

Constable Knew Lynchers For 14 Years; Fails To Recognize Them

6-10-39

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., June 9—Federal investigations of the white-wash acquittal of Earl and Everett Blackwelder, white brothers, for the lynching of Lee Snell, taxi-driver, will be asked by the International Labor Defense, it was announced this week.

A verdict of "not guilty" was returned by a jury after the prosecution's star witness, Constable James Durdin, testified that he "could not say for sure" that the defendants, whom he has known for 14 years, were the ones who shot Snell before his very eyes.

Snell was shot and killed April 29 while being transported by Durdin to a small island near here for "safe-keeping." He had been arrested following a collision between his cab and a bicycle ridden by a 12-year-old Benny Blackwelder, who later died.

Reversed His Story

Durdin testified at a coroner's inquest on May 2 that the Blackwelders had overtaken him, ordered him and Snell from his car, told Snell to run and then shot the fleeing cab driver in the back.

His testimony resulted in the brothers being held for the trial on charges of murder.

At the trial, however, Durdin suffered a 'suspicious' lapse of memory.

In pushing for a federal investigation, the I.L.D. pointed to the campaign of intimidation of witnesses and prospective jurors by the local Ku Klux Klan. The I.L.D. also stresses the anti-Race atmosphere in which the trial was conducted, as exemplified by questions put to the veniremen during the selection of the jury.

Each prospective juror was asked if he had been approached by, contributed to, or supported either the I.L.D., the Workers Alliance, or the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

One juror was asked if he had ever contributed to any organization which advocated equal rights for the Race.

6189

MRS. BETHUNE SENDS PROTEST TO FLORIDA'S GOVERNOR CONE

Flays Freeing of Whites Who Killed Negro Driver

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., June 15. (ANP) — Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, head of the Bethune-Cookman college here and director of the Negro Division, NYA, this week sent a strong letter of protest to Governor Fred Cone, against the action of a Deland, Fla., jury, fortnight ago in freeing two brothers—Earl and Everett Blackwelder—who had shot to death Lee Snell, colored taxi driver whose car had run over and fatally injured the Blackwelder's 12-year-old brother, Denny.

Press

6-18-39

The Florida jury freed the brothers despite the positive identification of the brothers at a previous grand jury hearing, by Constable James Durden. At that time Durden, who had known the Blackwelders for years, denounced them as wanton murders. He said that one of the brothers had brought the fleeing Snell to his knees with a shotgun charge, the other brother then firing several rifle bullets into Snell's body. Snell was in Constable Durden's custody, en route to jail, when the Blackwelders crowded Durden's car to the side of the road and seized Snell.

Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. Bethune's letter to Governor Cone:

"On behalf of the Negroes of Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida, I am writing to inform you that the results of the trial of the case of the coldblooded murder of Lee Snell, have almost paralyzed us.

"We appeal to you, as Governor of Florida, for some intervention, some investigation, some consideration, that justice may be done. With such an unjust handling of a case of murder, there is no safety for any Negro citizen in this state. We feel that this is not in accord with your desires as Governor of the State.

"Our hearts are crushed and we earnestly solicit your consideration. Some word of assurance from you is greatly needed by my people in Daytona Beach. We are law-abiding citizens and have measured up to Community requirements, to state and national laws.

"Governor Cone, what have you to say about this cold-blooded murder of Lee Snell?"

Protests Jury Action

DR. MARY McLEOD BETHUNE, head of the Bethune-Cookman college in Daytona Beach, Fla., and director of the Negro Division, NYA, who this week sent a strong letter of protest to Governor Fred Cone against the action of a Deland, Fla., jury which a fortnight ago freed two brothers, Earl and Everett Blackwelder, who had shot to death of Lee Sneel, colored taxi driver, whose car had run over and fatally injured the Blackwelder's 12-year-old brother, Benny.

Daytona Beach, Fla. News
May 1, 1939

Sams Takes Over Investigation Of Saturday Killing

Governor Cone and Attorney Gibbs State They Will Leave Inquiry Entirely to Volusia County Authorities

INQUEST RESUMES TOMORROW

State Attorney Murray Sams today signified his inention of taking charge of the probe into the two-man ynching Saturday of Lee Snell, negro prisoner of Constable James Durden, by notifying Justice Charles Beers that he would be present tomorrow when the inquest into Snell's slaying is continued.

Sams requested that the inquest be set forward from 5 to 2 p. m., and the request was granted by Beers.

Constable Durden, who at inquest Saturday swore that Snell was taken from his custody and slain by Everett and Earl Blackwelder, elder brothers of Benny Blackwelder who was killed on Second avenue early Saturday by a taxicab driven by Snell, went to DeLand this afternoon for a conference with Sams.

After 3 Witnesses

Durden said that while on the west side of the county he would subpoena Mrs. Estelle Price and Mrs. O. D. Meadows, both of Glenwood, who stopped their car on the DeLand road four miles west of Daytona Beach while Snell was being slain. Durden also sent a wire to Marshall E. Schoenthaler of Winter Haven, another witness compelled to stop his car because of the fatal struggle on the road telling him to be at the inquest.

Meanwhile from Governor Fred P. Cone and Attorney General George Couper Gibbs, according to the Associated Press in Tallahassee, there came direct statements indicating that they would leave the handling of Snell's slaying in the hands of county authorities.

Said Governor Cone: "I always leave those matters to the attorney general and the prosecuting attorneys."

Attorney General Gibbs said: "There is no reason for the state to intervene. It's a matter for local authorities."

He'll "Bring Them In"

Though named at the inquest Saturday as the two men who wrested Snell from him and shot him to death with a rifle and a shotgun, Everett and Earl Blackwelder were still at large today pending the verdict by a coroner's jury at the conclusion of the inquest.

But Sheriff S. E. Stone informed The News-Journal in DeLand today that Ben F. Blackwelder, father of the two youths named by Durden as the negro's slayer, had promised him that he would "bring the boys in" after the funeral for their young brother Benny. Hour for the funeral was set today for 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Stone said all efforts to apprehend the two youths ha dthus far failed.

Sheriff Stone said the elder Blackwelder had refused to disclose where his sons were staying. Justice Beers said today that no warrant had been sworn out in his court for the arrest of the two youths and there was no intimation that sheriff's forces held a warrant. Beers pointed out that he could not swear out a warrant without an affidavit.

Labor Group Active

Sheriff's forces indicated their belief that they would be able to bring the two Blackwelders into court when there is a warrant for them, or if they are ordered held by the coroher's verdict. Bearing on his face the marks of grief and worry, the elder Blackwelder called at the justice court on Second avenue today and asked to see Durden, who was out of town. He declined to talk about the case.

Though the state's high exec- probe of the slaying to loca lauthorities, there came from two labor organizations indications that they would press for rigid investigation and prosecution.

According to the Associated Press Frank McAllister. Southern secretary of the Workers' Defense league, said at St. ePtersburg he had written to Governor Cone urging him to send a "special representative" here to aid in the arrest and trial of the guilty persons. He asserted if there was not "quick action" he would ask the U. S. department of justice to make an investigation.

"From All Angles"

N. Jardine Osborne, representative of the International Labor Defense, was here asking questions Saturday about the slaying and there were indications today that that organization would ask for intervention by the federal justice department.

State Attorney Sams asserted in DeLand today he was investigating the case "from all angles," but declined to comment on the status of his probe thus far or the possibility of calling a special grand jury session.

"I want to go into this matter thoroughly and in orderly manner," said Sams, "and I plan to take each step in order." The state attorney said he had not been advised by the attorney general of any extra- the attorney general of any extraordinary procedure to follow, adding that he planned to handle the matter "just like any other criminal investigation brought to my attention."

Arrest Two Lynchers In Florida

Brothers, Charged With Murder, Give Themselves Up

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—(ANP)—Local police last week arrested two brothers, Earl and Everett Blackwelder, sought for several days for the lynching of Lee Snell, colored taxi driver.

Snell's taxi had fatally injured the Blackwelder's 12-year-old brother, Benny, and Snell was being taken by Constable James Durden to DeLand for safekeeping, when the two brothers overtook the constable's car on the highway, seized Snell and shot him to death.

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.
5/13/39

The brothers surrendered to Sheriff S. E. Stone. The Blackwelders were identified by Constable Durden as the two men who had seized Snell and shot him to death. The coroner's jury, after an inquest, charged the two brothers with murder.

As the news spread that the brothers had surrendered, local colored citizens formed a committee and demanded that the Blackwelders be punished to the full extent of the law. Snell was well-known here as one of the oldest taxi drivers in the city; he operated his own cab, and was a respected family man.

In the first wave of indignation following Snell's lynching, citizens had appealed to Attorney General Couper to apprehend his slayers, but that official declared: "There is no reason for the state to interfere. It's a matter for local authorities."

Then Frank McAllister, southern secretary of the Workers' Defense League at St. Petersburg wrote to Governor Cone asking him to send a "special representative" to aid in the arrest and trial of the two brothers. But Gov. Cone, who once reportedly said that no Negro college president in the country was worth $5,000 a year salary, gave this evasive answer to McAllister's plea: "I always leave those matters to the attorney general and the prosecuting attorneys."

The Volusia county grand jury indicted the Blackwelders on murder charges last week. The youths were deniel bail by Judge Frederick in spite of the fact that the grand jury recommended "bail in a reasonable amount pending trial."

The date for trial was tentatively set for May 19, the last day of the criminal docket for this term of court but defense counsel has asked for more time in which to prepare the case for the Blackwelders. Whether or not the trial would be held in this term of court has not been learned yet.

TWO BROTHERS SURRENDER IN FLA. LYNCHING

Afro

Held for Murder After Inquest

5-14-39

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., May 11. (ANP) — Local police last Tuesday had in custody the two brothers, Earl and Everett Blackwelder, sought since Saturday for the lynching of Lee Snell, colored taxi driver.

Chicago Def.

Snell's taxi had fatally injured the Blackwelders' 12-year-old brother, Benny, and he was being taken by Constable James Durden to the jail at DeLand for safekeeping, when the two brothers overtook the constable's car on the highway, seized Snell and shot him to death.

Durden said the brothers were armed with a rifle and a shotgun, that he scuffled with them in an effort to protect his prisoner, but was overpowered. Then, said Durden, Earl Blackwelder shot Snell with the rifle, and Everett fired a shotgun charge into the wounded

6190

man.

Here in Daytona Beach at Tuesday's coroner's inquest into Snell's lynching, returned a verdict of "murder at the hands of Earl and Everett Blackwelder." The verdict came shortly after the brothers had surrendered to Sheriff S. E. Stone. The Blackwelders were identified by Constable Durden as the two men who had seized Snell and shot him to death.

Colored Citizens Aroused

As the news spread that the brothers had surrendered, local colored citizens formed a committee and demanded that the Blackwelders be punished to the full extent of the law. Snell was well-known here as one of the oldest taxi drivers in the city; he operated his own cab, and was a respected family man.

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NEGROES FREED IN FLORIDA LYNCHING

Courier 4-29-39

Identity of Mob Members, Who Killed White Man, May Never Be Disclosed, Belief.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Apr. 27—(Special)—After the Bay County grand jury, investigating the lynching near here on April 1 of Miles Brown, young white man, recessed Wednesday with the announcement that evidence submitted to that body had not been sufficient to support an indictment, 5 Negroes and a white man who had been held as suspects, were released from jail.

Brown had been convicted of the murder of a former employer, Roy Van Kleeck, local merchant, but the jury recommended mercy, which made the imposing of a sentence of life imprisonment instead of death by electrocution, mandatory. That night, a band of masked men overpowered the jailer, took his keys, removed Brown from the jail, and taking him with them, disappeared. The following morning Brown's bullet riddled body was found about 5 miles from the city beside a lumber trail.

The jailer claimed all members of the masked band were white. Arrest of the race men in connection with the crime, therefore, created a mystery that has not yet been explained. Authorities declined to reveal their names or that of the white man arrested at the same time, that information being withheld on the ground no definite charge had been brought against any of them.

State officers cooperating with local officials, had no better success in bringing to justice the perpetrators of the lynching than did the grand jury, it is understood, and it is believed here their identity is likely to remain an unsolved problem.

Jacksonville Fla. Times-Union
May 7, 1939

Report Sent To Capital on Volusia Case

United States District Attorney Announces DeLand Group's Request.

TAMPA, May 6, (AP)—At the request of a delegation of citizens from DeLand, Volusia County seat United States District Attorney Herbert S. Phillips today officially reported to the Department of Justice at Washington, the slaying of Lee Snell, Daytona Beach negro taxicab driver, after he had injured fatally Benny Blackwelder, 12 years old.

Two older Blackwelder brothers, Everett and Earl, were indicted this week by a Volusia County grand jury for what has been termed Florida's second lynching of 1939.

The DeLand group was headed by W. Dow Woodward, attorney, who cited a 1904 Federal Court decision which, he maintained, gave the Federal Government jurisdiction in the case against the Blackwelder brothers. The decision, according to Woodward, held that anyone "who forceably takes a prisoner from an officer deprives that prisoner of the officer's protection under the due process of law clause of the Federal Constitution" Woodward said the decision, in an Alabama Federal court, had never been appealed.

Phillips said he made no record of the names of the DeLand delegation, but that he understood they represented the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a labor group from Jacksonville.

He said he would await instructions from Washington, before proceeding in the case.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
May 7, 1939

Federal Jurisdiction Asked In Daytona Negro Slaying

By The Associated Press

TAMPA—At the request of a delegation of citizens from DeLand, Volusia County seat, United States District Attorney Herbert S. Phillips yeserday officially reported to the Department of Justice at Washington the slaying last week of Lee Snell, Daytona Beach negro taxicab driver, after he had injured fatally Benny Blackwelder, 12 years old.

Two older Blackwelder brothers, Everett and Earl, were indicted this week by a Volusia County grand jury for what has been termed Florida's second lynching of 1939.

The DeLand group was headed by W. Dow Woodward, attorney, who cited a 1904 Federal Court decision which, he maintained, gave the Federal Government jurisdiction in the case against the Blackwelder brothers. The decision, according to Woodward, held that anyone "who forceably takes a prisoner from an officer deprives that prisoner of the officer's protection under the due process of law clause of the Federal Constitution," Woodward said the decision, in an Alabama Federal Court, had never been appealed.

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He said he would await instructions from Washington before proceeding in the case.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT OF LYNCHERS

GENERAL

U. S. to Probe All Lynchings

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6—(ANP)—Lynching parties will not be so popular in Dixie under the ruling of the attorney general's office and the new plan evolved by that office for handling southern pastimes.

The attorney general's new bureau of civil liberties has been instructed to investigate every lynching from this date on, filing detailed reports, naming names and places, turning the same over to congress for "consideration."

LYNCHINGS- 1939 MISSISSIPPI
LEGAL PUNISHMENT OF LYNCHERS

6192

ASK DIES COMMITTEE TO PROBE
HOT-IRON TORTURE LYNCHING

San Francisco,Calif.,July 27.- The Dies Committee investigating un-American activities in the United States and the United States Attorney General's office were called upon to investigate the hot-iron-torture lynching of Joe "odgers in Canton, Miss., last June 5, in a resolution passed here by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Local 1-10, an affiliate of the CIO.

Courier
7-29-39, Pittsburgh, Pa.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT OF LYNCHERS

NORTH CAROLINA

6193

NO. CAROLINA GOVERNOR ORDERS FLOGGING PROBE

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 16 — Governor Hoey has sent an agent from the State Department of Investigation to Goldsboro, N. C., to investigate the flogging of Kirby Baldwin and Floyd Edwards by a mob on Feb. 9. The governor's action was taken in response to a telegram from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Grand Jury Meets

Meanwhile, the Wayne County grand jury in Goldsboro announced through its foreman, Graves J. Smith, that it would meet February 14 for an investigation.

Baldwin and Edwards were arrested on assault charges growing out of an attack February 4 on Mayor J. H. Hill of Goldsboro. A band of armed white men took them from the jail, out into the country, beat them severely and set them free.

Age 2/19/39
Chi Def

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT OF LYNCHERS

PENNSYLVANIA

6194

Ask Governor To Probe Lynch-Talking Pa. Judge

Defender 7-1-39

NEW YORK, June 30—Gov. Arthur H. James, of Pennsylvania has been asked to launch an investigation into the official conduct of Judge Ivan J. McKenrick, sitting in Johnstown, Pa., with a view to bringing impeachment proceedings against the jurist.

Chicago Def.

This action was taken by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People this week in response to a story from a Johnstown paper, quoting the judge as admonishing a Race defendant about how lucky the latter was not to be living in a state where he would have been lynched.

In passing sentence upon Evans Payne, who appeared before him June 13, the judge is reported as having said:

"You are lucky that you weren't down in Virginia where you would have been lynched. The jury didn't believe your story and neither did I. When you get out of jail here go back to Virginia at once."

Characterizing the judge's reported statement as "clearly unbecoming a judicial officer in any state," the N.A.A.C.P. in a letter sent to Governor James this week called for an investigation.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
June 7, 1939

Whitehead Continues To Probe Mob Members

DANVILLE — Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead of Pittsylvania yesterday had before him the names of two or more men suspected of having been in the mob which assembled before the Chatham jail demanding the delivery of Sam Swanson, a Negro charged with murder and his two indicted companions charged with being confederates.

Whitehead refused to say who the men were but said that he was attempting to check their activities Sunday night and that if he could muster testimony of sufficient force and character to prove they constituted part of the mob he would take proceedings.

Danville, Va., Register
June 7, 1939

BEGIN PROBE OF MOB'S ACTION

Whitehead Has Names of Some Who Participated In Lynch Attempt

(Special to The Register)

CHATHAM, Va., June 6.—Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead, Jr., today was engaged in investigation of the action of a mob which surrounded the county jail Sunday night and demanded custody of three negroes held in connection with the slaying of Constable William M. Coward near Callands on May 28.

Mr. Whitehead had the names of several persons believed to have been members of the mob, and was checking their movements during Sunday afternoon and night.

The mob, some members of which entered the jail and demanded that Jailor A. E. Edwards surrender his keys, were dissuaded from their intention by the jailor. The negroes Samuel Swanson, charged with shooting Constable Coward, and Paul Fuller and Andrew Campbell, held as accessories, have been moved to the Danville jail for safekeeping.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
June 6, 1939

Whitehead Will Investigate Action of Mob at Chatham

CHATHAM, (AP)—Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead Jr. said yesterday there would be an investigation of the act of an armed mob which stormed the Pittsylvania County Jail Sunday night and demanded custody of three Negroes held in connection with the slaying May 28, of Constable William N. Coward at Callands.

The Negroes, Samuel Swanson, charged with the shooting of Coward, and Paul Fuller and Andrew Campbell, held as accessories, were moved from the jail here to an undisclosed place of safekeeping, yesterday afternoon.

Whitehead said the identity of one or two members of the mob was known, and with that as a working basis, the investigation would begin immediately.

Talks to Gain Time

The mob converged on the jail Sunday night, and Jailer A. E. Edwards argued with the leaders until word could be sent to Sheriff A. H. Overbey and Mr. Whitehead. The mob dispersed upon their arrival at the jail.

Edwards, credited with staving off the threat while other authorities were en route to the jail, said three of the men, masked with handkerchiefs and armed with shotguns and revolvers, gained admission to the building by ringing the bell and declaring they were officers with prisoners to be locked up.

Whitehead Summoned

When Edwards opened the door they announced, "We want them niggers," but the jailer argued that the law should be allowed to "take its course." Meanwhile, a runner summoned the sheriff, who, in turn, notified Commonwealth's Attorney Whitehead.

When they arrived and added their persuasion to that of the jailer, the crowd returned to automobiles and drove off.

Swanson and the two other Negroes in the jail were unaware of the proceedings in the jailer's quarters.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

ALABAMA

6196

START NATIONWIDE DRIVE TO FREE SCOTTSBORO BOYS

Five Boys Reported Suffering

Atlanta World

Atlanta, Ga.

2-9-39

Believe Alabama's New Governor Will Be More Liberal

By BEN DAVIS, JR.

NEW YORK—The National Scottsboro Defense Committee announced this week a renewed nation-wide campaign to free the five imprisoned Scottsboro boys. The campaign is to begin immediately.

The announcement was made from the national headquarters of the Committee, 112 East 19th St., New York City, by Rose Shapiro, assistant to Attorney Morris Shapiro, who is secretary of the Committee. It was the first public statement from the Committee since Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, Committee chairman and noted minister, last December publicly criticized former Gov. Graves for breaking his promise to free the five innocent youths by last October.

The campaign will include a nationally circulated petition addressed to the new Gov. Frank Dixon of Alabama, urging the immediate release of the boys, together with a defense fund drive and a series of meetings in communities throughout the country. A new pamphlet on the celebrated case has been specially prepared for the campaign.

"WIDEST SUPPORT"

A new governor now sits in Alabama and we must do everything possible to have him correct the act of injustice on the part of his predecessor. The Committee has prepared a new petition addressed to Gov. Dixon, Montgomery, Ala., demanding the immediate pardon and release of the boys. Letters should be sent at once urging the Governor to act quickly, Mrs. Shapiro stated.

Meantime, the five boys are suffering "deplorable conditions" in the Alabama prisons, Mrs. Shapiro declared. The five youths are Clarence Norris, sentenced to life; Andy Wright, 99 years; Haywood Patterson, 75 years; Charles Weems, 75 years; and Ozie Powell, 20 years.

Mrs. Shapiro said that petitions already had been sent to the Committee's local branches throughout the country as well as to scores of labor and progressive organizations, Negro and white.

"We intend to enlist the widest support among labor, liberals and among the American people in general for our campaign," she continued. "We want this to be a real victory campaign."

The Committee's new pamphlet, Scottsboro—Record of a Broken Promise, tells the full story of Gov. Graves going back on his word to Dr. Chalmers and outlines the future tasks in freeing the boys. It contains also excerpts of the last scholarly pardon petition filed before Gov. Graves by Osmond K. Fraenkel, noted Constitutional attorney, who participated in previous court victories in the case.

Heywood Patterson and Ozie Powell are still confined at the Atmore Prison camp in Atmore, Ala., Andy Wright, Charlie Weems and Clarence Norris are working under extremely harsh conditions in the Kilby Cotton Mills, at Kilby Penitentiary, Montgomery, Ala. All are kept under the most brutal restrictions. Following his visit to the boys this week Mr. Shapiro will make a report on their condition, and will also announce further steps in the campaign.

"Funds—and we do need funds badly to carry out our new campaign—should be sent to the Committee's headquarters at 112 East 18th Street, New York City," Mrs. Shapiro said.

8th 'Anniversary' Of Scottsboro Case Finds Five Defendants Still In Jail; Freedom For All Is Goal Of Defense

Daily World 4-14-39

Atlanta, Ga

NEW YORK—(SNS)—On the occasion of the eighth "anniversary" of the world famous Scottsboro case, Morris Shapiro, secretary of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, 112 East 19th Street, N.Y.C., issued a statement reaffirming the committee's belief in the complete innocence of all of the defendants and the determination of all member-organizations composing the committee to continue the work of winning the freedom of the "five remaining Scottsboro Boys"

"April 6 to 9 marked the eighth year of what has now become known as the Scottsboro case. On those three days in 1931 nine Negro boys, singularly and in groups were tried in the county courthouse at Scottsboro, Alabama, in an atmosphere which the Supreme Court of the United States later characterized as marked by threats of mob violence. In those original trials eight of the boys were sentenced to death in the electric chair of attacking two white women. In the case of the ninth boy, Roy Wright—who was then 13 years old— the jury disagreed. One juror urged "mercy" and recommended life imprisonment. A mistrial was declared in his case.

"During the eight years which have passed since April 1931, the Scottsboro case has come before Alabama courts in 11 trials. It has appeared to the United States Supreme Court on appeal three times. In the first two appeals before the high court, death sentences were reversed and new trials ordered. The first Supreme Court decision in November 1932 ordered a new trial on the grounds that the Negro boys had not been adequately represented by council. The second reversal, in April 1935 was handed down in the historic decision which stated that Negroes had been systematically excluded from the jury before which the Scottsboro case had been brought in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

"In 1933 when the cases were tried for the second time one of the white women whom they were accused of assaulting, Ruby Bates, took the witness stand for the defense and denounced her original testimony as a lie. In June of that same year, Judge James E. Horton of Decatur, Alabama, who had sentenced Haywood Patterson to die for the second time, reversed his own decision giving an opinion which stated that the evidence "preponderated greatly in favor of the defendants."

"The present status of the Scottsboro case is that four of the nine original defendants are free. The "attack" charge against five of the boys—Ozie Powell, Roy Wright, Eugene Williams, Willie Roberson and Olen Montgomery—was dropped in July 1937, and, except for Ozie Powell, these boys were unconditionally freed when the state of Alabama officially admitted that the evidence against them was doubtful.

"Yet at this same time, the state of Alabama meted out sentences against the remaining boys, on the same evidence (now reduced to the unsupported testimony of one woman of doubtful character) that outraged public opinion throughout the South and in Alabama itself as well as in the whole country. Clarence Norris was sentenced to death (this sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by ex-Governor Bibb Graves on July 5, 1938), Haywood Patterson to 75 years, Charlie Weems to 75 years and Andy Wright to 99 years. Ozie Powell was given 20 years on a charge of "assault" committed upon a sheriff who shot him in January 1936 while the boys were being transferred from Decatur to Birmingham.

"Entering its ninth year, justice in the Scottsboro case is now in the hands of Gov. Frank Dixon of Alabama. All recourse to the courts has been exhausted. The boys can now be freed only by a pardon from the Governor.

"We appeal on this anniversary to the conscience of the American people to help wipe out a crime against justice which has been justifiably called the "shame of America!" The innocence of the Scottsboro Boys has been repeatedly proved before the entire world. The state of Alabama, by freeing four of the boys, removed the last possible doubt as to their innocence. And yet eight years after their original trial five of them are still in prison, serving cruel sentences for a crime they never committed.

"The Scottsboro Defense Committee, which is composed of the American Civil Liberties Union, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Church League for Industrial Democracy, Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Labor Defense, League for Industrial Democracy, Methodist Federation of Social Service, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Unitarian Fellowship of Social Justice, reaffirms its complete belief in the innocence of all the defendants and its determination to continue unceasingly the work for their unconditional release."

It has recently issued new pardon petitions addressed to Governor Dixon of Alabama which all friends of justice are urged to sign.

Petitions may be obtained at 112 East 19th Street. N. Y. C.

TRIAL DATE FIXED FOR ATTACK CASE

Age-Herald

MOBILE, Ala., July 3—(AP)—Approximately 15 days after they were arrested, Herman Bell and Ernest Mitchell, Negroes, will go on trial here on charges of criminal assault in connection with an attack on a middle-aged Mobile woman.

Both Negroes pleaded not guilty when arraigned in Circuit Court here Monday. Trial of Bell is set for July 11, while that of Mitchell is scheduled for the following day. The pair was taken into custody last Wednesday, after a widespread manhunt in South Alabama.

7-5-39

The prisoners, under heavy guard, were brought here Monday from Kilby Prison for arraignment. The courtroom was guarded by eight state highway patrolmen, two city detectives, six sheriff's deputies, and three bailiffs during the hearing.

Taking every precaution to prevent violence, authorities made no public announcement of the arraignment. As a result of their efforts to keep the secret, only four spectators wandered into the courtroom and witnessed the proceedings.

The middle-aged woman was badly injured when she was attacked in an exclusive residential section of the city June 17. She is still in a local hospital, but is expected to recover.

Mitchell also faces another charge in connection with a criminal attack some time ago on a young woman at Prichard. Both Negroes have been indicted by a Mobile County Grand Jury, called into special session to consider the attack case.

Immediately after the hearing, the two prisoners, still surrounded by a number of heavily armed officers, were rushed back to Kilby Prison for safekeeping.

Free Two Years, Scottsboro Boys Study Music, Mechanics

By ANGELO HERNDON
Crusader News Agency

NEW YORK.—It was two years ago on July 24, 1937, that millions of people hailed the news of the freeing of Roy Wright, Eugene Williams, Olin Montgomery and Willie Roberson, four of the nine framed Scottsboro boys.

It was a smashing victory over the forces of reaction for both Negro and white Americans. Alain Locke, professor, Howard University, compared it with Bastille Day in France.

8/7/39

And on the second anniversary of this important victory Roy Wright voiced the hope that the American people will be spurred to greater effort in the fight to free the other five boys who are still rotting away in the prisons of Alabama.

"I don't know if I could feel better if I was in heaven," said Roy Wright, discussing his two years of freedom.

Since gaining their freedom, Roy and Olin have been in school. Of course, it has not been easy for them, but they have been trying hard to adjust themselves.

Roy has just completed a course in primary education, and is now prepared to take a course in auto mechanics this fall.

Olin is going to a music school in Harlem, and is progressing rapidly. He wants to be a composer and hopes that some day he will be able to make a living from his music compositions.

Eugene Williams is in Chicago, and Willie Roberson is in Brooklyn.

While these four boys breathe the fresh air of freedom, and are fighting hard for a place in society, part of the Scottsboro fight remains unfinished, remains to be won. The other five boys must be freed.

Scottsboro Boys Rejoice Over Two Years of Freedom

By ANGELO HERNDON

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"I don't know if I could feel better if I was in heaven," said Roy Wright, discussing his two years of freedom.

He talked with feeling about the very simple little things of which he and the other boys were deprived for more than six years.

Like A Dream

"It's just like a dream," he said, "being free to walk the streets and breathe the fresh air. Sometimes it doesn't seem real — when I think that for six long years I was a stranger to the world and the world was a stranger to me.

"But it is real and it makes me feel wonderful."

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Fight Remains

While these four boys breathe the fresh air of freedom, and are fighting hard for a place in society, part of the Scottsboro fight remains unfinished, remains to be won. The other five boys must be freed.

At a time when racial intolerance and bigotry are rampant in the world, when the Bilbos and Cotton Ed Smiths are whipping up race hatred, the fight to free the remaining Scottsboro boys assumes the greatest significance.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

ALABAMA

6197

LEIBOWITZ BRINGS UP ANOTHER 'ANGLE' ON SCOTTSBORO CASE

Courier 2-4-39
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Says Ala. Attorney General Broke Promise to Free Four of the Boys in Two Years—Will Present Facts Before Bar Association.

NEW YORK CITY, Feb. 2 (ANP)—Samuel S. Leibowitz, intrepid Manhattan attorney who, after more than six years of endless court battles, obtained freedom for four of the "Scottsboro Boys," and saved five others from death. this week shed a new light on the famous case which has attracted international attention.

Attorney Leibowitz charged that Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael has broken a promise to free four of the accused boys within two years and that the two-year agreement period expired at the end of January. Leibowitz said the promise was made at a conference held in January, 1937, at the Hotel New Yorker.

Present at that meeting were Carmichael, the late Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr., of Alabama, who prosecuted all the cases except the last, when Carmichael took charge, John Terry Leibowitz' secretary and Leibowitz himself.

Concerning the conference, Leibowitz said, "Knight suggested that the case could be immediately terminated if the Scottsboro boys or some of them would take some sort of plea of guilty. This was to be a face-saving device for the state of Alabama. I replied that a plea of guilty to a crime of which these boys were entirely innocent was unthinkable.

CITES CARMICHAEL PROMISE

"Carmichael promised at the conference to free within two years Andy Wright, Clarence Norris, Heywood Patterson and Charley Weems."

Here's what happened to the four youths mentioned: Wright was sentenced to 75 years imprisonment; Norris to 99 years; Patterson to 75 and Weems to 75. The fifth boy, Ozie Powell, was given 20 years for assault upon a guard.

FOUR OTHERS GIVEN FREEDOM

Through Leibowitz' efforts, the remaining four of the Scottsboro defendants—Eugene Williams, Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson and Roy Wright—were freed on July 24, 1937. The seven had been charged with attacking two girl derelicts, dressed in men's clothing —Victoria Price and Ruby Bates—on March 25, 1931, while riding on a freight train in Alabama. During the exciting trial, Miss Bates repudiated Mrs. Price's testimony, said the whole case was a frame-up.

Attorney Leibowitz said last Sunday that members of the Scottsboro defense committee had recently reminded Carmichael of his promise, but that nothing had come of it, and added: "At no time has he dared to deny that the promise was made."

Telling of his plan to again smoke the case out in the open, Leibowitz said: "I am going to register a protest with the American Bar Association, not the Alabama Bar Association, within the next few days, and set forth the whole messy business. We don't propose to let this matter rest. We are going to find out if there is honor among lawyers . . . As attorney general, Carmichael is a member of the Alabama pardon board and in a position to keep his promise.'

Carmichael has been active in Alabama politics since his handling of the Scottsboro prosecution focused state-wide attention on him. Last week he was inducted as Lieutenant Governor of Alabama. His comment on the Leibowitz charges was, "I have absolutely nothing to say. I'm through with the Scottsboro case, I know nothing of his (Leibowitz') statements.'

SCOTTSBORO CASE BACKGROUND TO BE USED IN CLARK CASE

Courier 2-4-39
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ATHENS, Ga., Feb. 2—(Special) George W. Chamlee, of Chattanooga, Tenn., at one time employed as associate defense counsel in the "Scottsboro Cases," has announced he will take an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of William Clark 16-year-old youth, under sentence of death for criminally assaulting a white woman, and that the appeal will be based on the same ground on which the first reversal of the "Scottsboro Cases" was predicated by the nation's highest tribunal . . . namely, systematic exclusion of Negroes from the county jury rolls.

Other grounds of appeal, the attorney said, will be the contention that Clark did not receive a fair trial, due to the presence throughout the proceedings of a detail of 50 State Highway Patrolmen, also that a mob spirit was present in the community at the time necessitating the presence of the Patrolmen to assure the preservation of order.

The alleged victim of the attack, wife of a prominent farmer, testified against Clark who, however, denied his guilt. The appeal to be taken will be from action of Circuit Judge A. A. Griffith in denying motion for a new trial.

Under the rules of court procedure, appeal must first be taken to the Alabama Supreme court and there denied, before appeal can be filed in the U. S. Supreme court. Final adjudication of the case will be awaited with widespread interest, in view of the fact that after reversal by the Supreme court of the United States of the "Scottsboro Cases" on the ground that Negroes had been systematically excluded from jury rolls, former Gov. Bibb Graves ordered that jury boxes in all counties in the state be emptied and refilled.

SCOTTSBORO CASE BOBS TO FORE AGAIN

See Freedom for Boys Still in Jail

NEW HARMONY, Ala., Nov. 16—Something has to be done about the Scottsboro case. So stated Governor Dixon of Alabama in a speech at the state prison farm where Haywood Patterson and Ozie Powell are imprisoned.

Bee

That Alabama state officials are embarrassed by the inconsistency of the eight-year-old case which resulted in freedom for four of the nine boys held on the same charge has been noted in the numerous promises of freedom for the remaining imprisoned boys.

Governor Dixon is reported to have stated his willingness to carry out the wide-spread demands of the public whenever the state of Alabama decided to act in the now nationally infamous case.

11-19-39

Parole Laws Changed

The promise, it was stated, was based on certain proposed changes in the state's pardon and parole laws. which have lately been ratified by an amendment in the state constitution. This amendment enables the governor to modernize the Alabama pardon and parole laws.

Chicago, Ill.

Pardoning of convicted persons, under the new setup, is no longer solely in the hands of the governor but will be handled by a Pardon and Parole board of three members.

These members, with the exception of one, are said to favor the boys' release as do several state officials and a member of the convict department, Bruce Avery, who is said to have promised the youths their freedom on the basis of "good behavior" for one year.

6197

Leibowitz Says Ala. Attorney General Broke Promise To Free Four Scottsboro Boys

Will Present Facts Before American Bar Ass'n; Wanted Boys to Plead Guilty

Black Dispatch

Will Air "Whole Messy Business"

2-4-39

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Four Others Given Freedom

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NATIONWIDE DRIVE TO FREE SCOTSBORO BOYS

Five Boys Reported Suffering—Believe Alabama's New Governor Will be More Liberal

By Ben Davis, Jr.

Globe 2-7-39
Nashville Tenn.

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"Fund—and we do need funds badly to carry out our new campaign—should be sent to the Committee's headquarters at 11 East 19th St., New York City,' Mrs. Shapiro said.

—Union-Review

SCOTTSBORO CASE FREEDOM DEAL REVEALED

Leibowitz Charges Doublecross

Bee

2-5-39

Chgo

NEW YORK CITY, Feb. 2—(ANP)—Samuel S. Liebowitz, intrepid Manhattan attorney who, after more than six years of endless court battles, obtained freedom for four of the "Scottsboro Boys," and saved five others from death, this week shed a new light on the famous case which has attracted international attention.

Atty. Liebowitz charged that Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael has broken a promise to free four of the accused boys within two years and that the two-year agreement period expired at the end of January. Leibowitz said the promise was made at a conference held in January, 1937, at the Hotel New Yorker.

Present at that meeting were Carmichael, the late Lt. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., of Alabama, who prosecuted all the cases except the last, when Carmichael took charge, John Terry, Leibowitz's secretary and Liebowitz himself.

Cites Carmichael Promise

Concerning the conference, Liebowitz said, "Knight suggested that the case could be immediately terminated if the Scottsboro boys or some of them would take some sort of plea of guilty. This was to be a face-saving device for the state of Alabama." I replied that a plea of guilty to a crime of which these boys were entirely innocent was unthinkable."

"Carmichael promised at the conference to free within two years Andy Wright, Clarence Norris, Heywood Patterson and Charley

Here's what happened to the four youths mentioned: Wright was sentenced to 75 years imprisonment; Norris to 99 years; Patterson to 75 and Weems to 75. The fifth boy, Ozie Powell, was given 20 years for assault upon a guard.

Four Others Given Freedom

Through Leibowitz's efforts, the remaining four of the Scottsboro defendants — Eugene Williams, Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson and Roy Wright—were freed on July 24, 1937. The seven had been charged with attacking two girl derelicts, dressed in men's clothing—Victoria Price and Ruby Bates—on March 25, 1931, while riding on a freight train in Alabama. During the exciting trial, Miss Bates repudiated Mrs. Price's testimony, said the whole case was a frameup.

Atty. Liebowitz said last Sunday that members of the Scottsboro defense committee had recently reminded Carmichael of his promise, but that nothing had come of it, and added: "At no time has he dared to deny that the promise was made."

Telling of his plan to again smoke the case out in the open, Liebowitz said: "I am going to register a protest with the American Bar association, not the Alabama Bar association, within the next few days, and set forth the whole messy business. We don't propose to let this matter rest. We are going to find out if there is honor among lawyers. . . . As attorney general, Carmichael is a member of the Alabama pardon board and in a position to keep his promise."

Carmichael has been active in Alabama politics since his handling of the Scottsboro prosecution focused statewide attention on him Last week he was inducted as Lieutenant Governor of Alabama. His comment on the Liebowitz charges was, "I have absolutely nothing to say. I'm through with the Scottsboro case. I know nothing of his (Liebowitz's) statements."

Scottsboro Counsel Visits Prisoners

MONTGOMERY, Feb. — (ANP) State prison officials this week revealed that Morris Shapiro of New York City, associate counsel with Samuel Leibowitz in the Scottsboro case last Thursday conferred privately with three of the youths at Kilby Prison. Nature of the conversation was not disclosed.

SCOTTSBORO ANNIVERSARY

Age

4-15-39

LAST WEEK, APRIL 6 TO 9 to be specific, marked the eighth anniversary of the world-famous Scottsboro case and appropriately enough the Scottsboro Defense Committee, through its secretary. Morris Shapiro, issued a statement reaffirming the committee's belief in the complete innocence of all the defendants and the determination of all member-organizations composing the committee to continue the work of winning the freedom of the five remaining defendants.

Readers will remember that on these eventful days in 1931, nine Negro boys, singly and in groups, were tried in the county courthouse at Scottsboro, Ala., in an atmosphere which the United States Supreme Court later charactrized as marked by threats of mob violence. In those original trials eight of the boys were sentenced to death in the electric chair on the charge of "raping" two white women. In the case of the ninth boy, Roy Wright, who was only 13 years old, the jury disagreed One juror urged "mercy" and recommended life imprisonment. A mistrial was declared in his case.

Since that time, the Scottsboro case has been before Alabama courts in 11 trials and has been appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court three times. In the first two appeals before the nation's highest tribunal, death sentences were reversed and new trials ordered, the first time on the grounds that the youths had not been adequately represented by counsel and the second, in a historic decision which declared that the systematic exclusion of Negroes on Alabama juries was a violation of the U. S. Constitution.

In the second Alabama trials in 1933, the nation applauded as Ruby Bates, one of the two women complainants and star witness for the prosecution, took the witness stand for the defense and recanted her original testimony as a lie. Since that time several sensations have occurred in the case. the first in July 1937 when the charge of "rape" was dropped against five of the boys (Ozie Powell, Eugene Williams, Olen Montgomery, Eugene Roy Wright and Willie Roberson) and with the exception of Powell, the youths were unconditionally freed when the State of Alabama officially admitted that the evidence against the defendants was doubtful.

And here enters another surprise with the state of Alabama officials steadfastly refraining to answer the paradox: If all nine of the youths were together on the train and were arrested at the same time for the same offense, then all must be equally guilty of the crime or all must be innocent of any wrong-doing. But justice in Alabama is like that—without rhyme or reason—when Negroes are concerned. The result was that five remaining defendants were sentenced on the same testimony which Judge James E. Horton, presiding justice, stated was "preponderated greatly in favor of the defendants,"

As the case goes into its ninth year, "justice" for the youths is in the hands of Governor Frank Dixon, all recourse to the courts having been exhausted. The boys can now be freed only by a pardon issued by the Governor.

Says the Defense Committee:

"We appeal on this anniversary to the conscience of the American people to help wipe out a crime against justice which has been justifiably called the 'shame of America'. The innocence of the Scottsboro Boys has been repeatedly proven before the entire world. The State of Alabama, by freeing four of the

boys, removed the last possible doubt as to their innocence. And yet eight years after their original trial five of them are still in prison, serving cruel sentences for a crime they never committed."

The Defense Committee is busy circulating petitions addressed to Governor Dixon urging him to pardon the five youths. We urge our readers to sign these petitions and if possible to write to the committee's headquarters at 112 East 19th street, New York City, to additional petitions which they will gladly send all well-wishers. The unconditional release of all of the remaining youths is the ultimate goal of the committee

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NEGRO ATTACKER SENTENCED TO DIE

News

Jury Convicts Burks After Little More Than Three Hours' Deliberation

10-10-39

Judge Robert J. Wheeler today passed sentence on Nathaniel Burks, young Negro, who last night was convicted by a jury of criminally attacking a North Birmingham housewife the morning of May 27. Punishmeht was fixed at death. death.

Birmingham

Ala

The jury returned the verdict after about three hours and 15 minutes of deliberations. The case was received at 5:30 p.m. and the verdict returned at 9:45 p.m. after the jury had taken an hour out for dinner.

The death penalty was demanded for the Negro by Assistant Solicitor Greye Tate. Burks had been identified in court yesterday morning by the woman he was accused of attacking. The woman, mother of three children, said the Negro entered her house about 4 a.m. while her husband was at work. One of her children, a 16-month-old baby was in her arms at the time of the attack, she testified.

A pistol and $34 were taken by the Negro while he was in the house, she testified.

John McFarland, county identification expert, and City Detectives Grover Gilliland and A. J. Bryant testified that bloodhounds from the sheriff's office followed a trail directly to the Negro's home near by from a cornfield in the rear of the house where the attack victim lived.

A denial of the attack was made by Burks. He testified he got up about 4:45 o'clock the morning of the attack and went directly to work on a garbage truck. His testimony was verified in part by the driver of the truck and a neighbor

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Sight For Scottsboro thorities Favor Release

By AUGUSTA JACKSON STRONG

Defender

11-18-39

Chicago

NEW HARMONY, Ala., Nov. 17—High officials of the Alabama state government, it is said, have at several times promised freedom for the remaining Scottsboro boys, in both private conversations and speeches.

Sources close to the boys where they are imprisoned told some of the recent developments in the eight-year-old case, and related the unofficial promises of their release.

Governor Dixon of Alabama is reported to have stated in a speech made not long at the state prison farm where Haywood Patterson and Ozie Powell are imprisoned, that something had to be done about the Scottsboro case.

It is reported that he stated his willingness to carry out the demand of the public whenever the people of the state of Alabama were willing to do something about the case. This promise, it is asserted, was based on certain proposed changes in the Alabama state pardon and parole laws.

Since that time Alabama voters have ratified an amendment to the state constitution enabling the governor to modernize the state parole and pardon system. Under the new set-up, pardoning of convicted persons will no longer be handled solely by the governor, but by a Pardon and Parole board of three members.

"Captain" Perkins, director of the board, is already said to have declared himself in favor of their release. It is reported further that other high officials, including Thomas Lawson, states attorney general, and Bruce Avery, head of the state convict department, have expressed themselves similarly.

The one woman member of the Alabama Parole board is believed to represent one section of the opposition to the freedom of the boys, on the grounds that their innocence has not been sufficiently established.

ALA. OFFICIALS FAVOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS

Plaindealer

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — It was reported here this week that high officials of the Alabama state government are considering the release of the remaining Scottsboro boys from prison. Reports are that such promises have been made by afficials several times, in both private conversation and speeches.

11-17-39

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Kansas City

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This board member, a Mrs. Mitchell, is also known as the state official who presented the main objections to the appeals for a retrial in the case of Willie Joe Hart, young labor prisoner from whom a 15 year prison sentence, also on frame-up charges, was recently lifted.

6199

Charges Gov. Graves Double-Crossed' Last Of Scottsboro Boys

Daily World
1-1-39
Atlanta Ga

Executive Had Promised To Parole Remaining Youths, Rev. Allen Chalmers Says

NEW YORK CITY—(ANP)—Rev. Allan K. Chalmers, pastor Broadway Tabernacle and chairman of the National Scottsboro committee, this week released correspondence to support his charge that Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama had broken his promise to parole the last of the nine "Scottsboro Boys", now in prison for alleged criminal assaults on Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, girl derelicts.

The letter, released by Dr. Chalmers, stated in December, 1937, Gov. Graves in conference with the pastor, Grover C. Hall editor Montgomery Advertiser, and Rev. Henry D Edmonds, had declared that holding the four youths in prison, after releasing four others, indicted for the same offense, was "untenable."

In his letter, Dr. Chalmers told the Governor, "You told us that it was your intention to parole the boys in the custody of the Defense Committee as soon as the Pardon board had submitted its decision and time enough had elapsed for you to hear any that objected to the release."

Dr. Chalmers declared that the committee which he heads will call upon Gov. Graves' successor, Frank Dixon, when he takes up the reins of office, and ask him to make the Graves pledge good. Gov Graves comment, "I have received the letter with thousands of other threats, and I have ignored it all and shall continue to do so."

Pickens Asks Tom Mooney's Help In Scottsboro Cases

NEW YRK.—(ANP)—In a letter sent last week to Tom Mooney, recently pardoned California labor war bombing prisoner, William Pickens of the N. A. A. C. P. asked his aid in securing justice for the Scottsboro boys.

Baltimore Afro-American
1-28-39

In his communication Pickens says: "This will be one of the millions of letters you will get from those of us who have worked and plead for years, not that justice should be done to you, but that the great injustice that was being done to you and to all humanity should cease. Now that you are not only out of prison, but also out from under the false accusation that stood against you for 22 years.

"Your attention is now called to another case, even worse than yours—the Scottsboro Case. Let us all hope and work to the end of getting out the other five of these innocent victims of prejudice, hoping that it will not take 22 years but working to get them out however long it may take.

"I cannot think of any better use that could be made of some of your time now than you could make by appearing and pleading in a series of great meetings in behalf of these Negro boys."

Pickens Asks Mooney's Aid in Scottsboro Case

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Press
1-22-39
Chicago Ill.

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"Your attention is now called to another case, even worse than yours — THE SCOTTSBORO CASE. Let us all hope and work to the end of getting out the other five of these innocent victims of prejudice, hoping that it will not take 22 years but working to get them out however long it may take.

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LEIBOWITZ TO PRESS 'FREEDOM PROMISE'

Says Carmichael Was To Let Negroes Out

Post
1-23-39
Birm Ala

By United Press.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Samuel S Leibowitz, counsel for the "Scottsboro boys," charged today that Atty.-Gen. Albert A. Carmichael of Alabama had not kept a promise to free four of the Negro youths within two years.

He said he would present details to the American Bar Assn.

Leibowitz said that at a conference in New York in January, 1937, Mr Carmichael promised to free within two years Andy Wright, Clarence Norris, Heywood Patterson and Charley Weems. Subsequently they were sentenced for long terms.

* * *

Carmichael Refuses Comment On Case

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Jan. 23.—Lieut Gov. Albert A. Carmichael today declined to comment on charges by Samuel Leibowitz of New York that while attorney-general of Alabama he failed to keep a promise to secure freeedom for four of the "Scottsboro boys."

"I have absolutely nothing to say," Mr. Carmichael told the United Press. "I'm through with the Scottsboro case. I know nothing about his (Leibowitz) statements."

Carmichael was attorney-general until his induction as lieutenant governor last week and had been a member of the State Pardons Board which recommended several months ago that no clemency be extended the four Negroes serving long terms in the notorious attack case. Then Gov. Bibb Graves acted on the board's recommendation by refusing to grant pardons.

Start Nationwide Drive To Free Five Imprisoned Scottsboro Boys

By BEN DAVIS Jr.

Age
2-1-39
New York N.Y.

The National Scottsboro Defense Committee announced this week a renewed nationwide campaign to free the five imprisoned Scottsboro boys. The campaign is to begin immediately.

The announcement was made from the national headquarters of the Committee, 112 East 19th street, New York City, by Rose Shapiro assistant to Attorney Morris Shapiro who is secretary of the Committee. It was the first public statement from the Committee since Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers committee chairman and noted ministers, last December publicly criticised former Governor Graves for breaking his promise to free the five innocent youth by last October.

The campaign will include a nationally circulated petition addressed to the new Governor, Frank Dixon, of Alabama, urging the immediate release of the boys together with a defense fund drive and a series of meetings in communities throughout the country. A new pamphlet on the celebrated case has been specially prepared for the campaign.

"A new Governor now sits in Alabama and we must do everything possible to have him correct the acts of injustice on the part of his predecessor. The Committee has prepared a new petition addressed to Gov. Frank Dixon, Montgomery, Ala., demanding the immediate pardon and release of the boys. Letters should be sent at once urging the Governor to act quickly,'' Mrs. Shapiro stated.

Meantime, the five boys are suffering deplorable conditions in the Alabama prisons. Mrs. Shapiro declared. The five youths are Clarence Norris, sentenced to life; Andy Wright, 99 years; Haywood Patterson, 75 years; Charlie Weems, 75 years, and Ozie Powell, 20 years.

Mrs. Shapiro said that petitions already had been sent to the Committee's local branches throughout the country as well as to scores of labor and progressive organizations, Negro and white.

''We intend to enlist the widest support among labor, liberals and among the American people in general for our campaign,'' she continued. ''We want this to be a real victory campaign''

Issues Pamphlet

The Committee's new pamphlet, ''Scottsboro—Record of Broken Promise,'' tells the full story of Governor Graves going back on his word to Dr. Chalmers and outlines the future tasks in freeing the boys. It contains also excerpts of the last scholarly pardon petition filed before Governor Graves by Osmond K. Frankel, noted constitutional attorney, who participated in previous court victories in the case.

Heywood Patterson and Ozzie Powell are still confined at the Atmore Prison camp in Atmore, Ala.; Andy Wright, Charlie Weems and Clarence Norris are working under extremely harsh conditions in the Kilby Cotton Mills, at Kilby Penitentiary, Montgomery, Ala. All are kept under the most brutal restrictions. Following his visit to the boys this week, Mr. Shapiro will make a report on their condition, and will also announce further steps in the campaign.

Leibowitz to Press Double-cross Charge

Journal and Guide

2-4-39

Norfolk Va

NEW YORK CITY—(ANP)—Samuel S. Leibowitz, intrepid Manhattan attorney who, after more than six years of endless court battles, obtained freedom for four of the "Scottsboro Boys," and saved five others from death, this week shed a new light on the famous case which has attracted international attention.

Attorney Leibowitz charged that Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael has broken a promise to free four of the accused boys within two years and that the two-year agreement period expired at the end of January. Leibowitz said the promise was made at a conference held in January, 1937, at the Hotel New Yorker.

Present at that meeting were Carmichael, the late Lt. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr. of Alabama, who prosecuted all the cases except the last, when Carmichael took charge, John Terry, Leibowitz' secretary and Leibowitz himself.

CITES PROMISE

Concerning the conference, Leibowitz said, "Knight suggested that the case could be immediately terminated if the Scottsboro boys or some of them would take some fort of plea of guilty. This was to a face-saving device for the state of Alabama. I replied that a plea of guilty to a crime of which these boys were entirely innocent was unthinkable.

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Here's what happened to the four youths mentioned: Wright was sentenced to 75 years imprisonment; Norris to 99 years, Patterson to 75 and Weems to 75. The fifth boy Ozie Powell, was given 20 year for assault upon a guard.

FOUR OTHERS GIVEN FREEDOM

Through Leibowitz' efforts, th remaining four of the Scottsbor defendants — Eugene Williams Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson and Roy Wright—were freed o July 24, 1937. The seven had bee charged with attacking two gir derelicts, Victoria Price and Rub Bates—on March 25, 1931, whil riding on a freight train in Ala bama. During the exciting re-tria in March, 1933, Miss Bates repudi ated Mrs. Price's testimony, sai the whole case was a frameup.

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NATION WIDE DRIVE TO FREE 5 SCOTTS. BOYS

Guardian

NEW YORK, Feb. 3, (Ben Davis, Jr., for CNA)—The National Scottsboro Defense Committee announced this week a renewed nation-wide campaign to free the five imprisoned Scottsboro boys. The campaign is to begin immediately.

2-4-39

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Boston

Mass

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YOUTHFUL FARMER, SERVING 20 YEARS, CLEARED BY PITTS

Courier

2-4-39

Pittsburgh

Pa

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 2—(Special)—Bee Jones, young Hale county farmer, serving a penitentiary term of 20 years imposed following his conviction of attempted criminal assault of a white woman, and who narrowly escaped lynching by an infuriated mob—has been proven innocent, by the confession to that and other crimes in the same county, by Grady Pitts alias Tubbs, Greensboro desperado, now under sentence of death for the murder of a white man and woman near that place last December.

Pitts who had previously confessed to the double slaying and to attacking the woman before he killed, sent word to Warden Jack Lindsey of Kilby Penitentiary where he now occupies a cell in death-row, that he "wanted to talk." That was on Wednesday morning, and the Warden immediately relayed from there to Circuit Solicitor Joe James at Greensboro, who hurried to Montgomery to take Pitts' statement, bringing other witnesses with him.

ADMITS CRIME FOR WHICH ANOTHER ALMOST DIED

In their presence and that of two Patrol Officers and the Warden, Pitts made and signed a statement, confessing that he, not Jones, was the man who attempted to assault Mrs. B. K. Greene, wife of a prominent planter.

He also confessed three other attempted attacks on women and the planning of more, which were frustrated; an additional murder of a member of his own race and an attempted slaying, also three robberies.

In making the confession public later, Solicitor James said details set out by Pitts regarding the Greene case, were substantiated in all major particulars by the evidence obtained by investigating officers including himself, and presented at the trial of Jones who pleaded not guilty.

2-4-39

It is understood the Solicitor and Trial Judge John Miller will recommend to Gov. Frank M. Dixon that Jones be given a temporary parole until the confession of Pitts can be rechecked carefully, and if the reasonable doubt of the guilt of Jones, already established by the other man's confession, is sustained, as it appears it unquestionably will be, a full pardon for Jones will be requested.

ENRAGED MOB TRIED TO LYNCH INNOCENT MAN

At the time of the arrest of Jones who has never ceased to protest his innocence, officers were preparing to remove him to a jail in another county, when an enraged mob surrounded them and demanding that the prisoner be turned over, threatened to take him by force if the demand was not complied with.

Jones owes his life on that occasion, probably, to the husband of the woman who was the victim of the assault attempt.

Hearing of the disturbance, Greene, formerly WPA director for Alabama, hurried to the scene and addressed the threatening crowd. He told them that he was the most injured party concerned, next to his wife; that both of them wished the law to be permitted to take its course. He pleaded with them not to try to take matters in their own hands. After he had talked for a few minutes, the mob began to disperse, and eventually melted away entirely. The balked lynching was widely publicized throughout the country early last summer.

PITTS' RECENT CONFESSION SOLVES OTHER MYSTERIES

Pitts' recent confession not only serves to clear Jones of guilt in the Green case, authorities say, but also solves the mystery that has shrouded the other crimes to which he confessed, since they were committed.

Substantial citizens of Hale county who cooperated fully with officers in the investigation of the Greene case, and the double murder of last December, were never convinced of the guilt of Jones. They aided wholeheartedly in tracing the double murder of last December, to Pitts, and it is now being rumored that they suspect Pitts in the Greene case, but were unable to uncover enough evidence on which officers could base an arrest.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

ARKANSAS

6200

Arkansas Justice

In May, 1938, a committee appeared before the General Conference session of the Colored Methodist Episcopal church at Hot Springs, Arkansas and appealed for financial assistance in the defense of two innocent Negro youths facing death. That great body donated something near $200. The writer of this editorial was there and also made a liberal contribution and sought more information about the case.

On June 30 our memory was refreshed of that occasion, when we read of the account that Bubbles Clayton and Jim Carruthers were executed on a charge of "rape" down in Arkansas. The state of Arkansas had taken the life of the same innocent Negroes that the General Conference offered up prayers for and gave financial assistance to fight ~~in the courts~~. The evidence as produced by the attorneys for the defense clearly proved the boys to be innocent. At first, the two boys were charged with shooting a sheriff. After the failure to make this alibi stick, the rape slander was dragged out and it was so rotten until even decent white people of Arkansas turned their nose up at the frameup, because they knew that the whole thing grew out of the landlord drive to intimidate the Negro and white sharecroppers organizing together in Arkansas.

This tragedy against American Democracy shows how important it is to have a federal law to safeguard all the civil and constitutional rights of Negroes. If ever Attorney General Murphy was needed to clean up a situation, it is now down in Arkansas and other parts of the south where the Federal Lindberg kidnapping law is violated and mob rule becomes the justice for Negroes. The United States congress should pass the anti-lynching bill at this session for the protection of Negro citizens. There is nothing more important than the protection of citizens. Negroes should be protected and the federal government should protect them.

Plaindealer
7-14-39
Kansas City

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

ARKANSAS

6201

WHITE RAPIST GETS LIFE FOR ATTACK ON 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL

4-8-39

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Mar. 30—Elton Clifton, 23, white, was sentenced to life imprisonment here Friday for the rape of a 13-year-old colored girl. The sentenced marked the first time in the history of Arkansas that a white man has been convicted of such a charge.

An all-white jury deliberated only 40 minutes. The prosecution had sought the death penalty but the good character of the rapist as attested to by a number of character witnesses, saved his life.

Most damaging evidence against him was a stick of peppermint candy which the child was carrying just before the attack. A similar stick of candy, a store proprietor testified, was sold the girl a few hours before the attack was reported. The candy was found in Clifton's truck.

Beaten and Raped

The child testified that she was beaten with what she said was a pistol, forced into Clifton's truck and driven to an uninhabited section of the highway where she was raped. She said he then drove her back towards town before forcing her from the truck. The girl lives near Tie Plant.

She has been confined to a North Little Rock hospital since being transferred there from City hospital. Clifton, who was traced by the license number of his truck, steadfastly denied the attack and offered an explanation for blood found on his clothing.

Gets Life For Raping Girl In Arkansas

Philadelphia Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.
3-30-39

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Mar.—(ANP)—For the first time in the history of Arkansas, a white man was convicted here Friday for raping a colored girl. Elton Clifton, 23, of North Little Rock, must serve a life sentence for criminal assault on a 13-year-old child.

Clifton was convicted by an all-white jury which deliberated only 40 minutes in the courtroom of Judge Gus Fulk. During the trial, Clifton's young wife sat beside him. His mother bowed her head and cried, and his father looked at him silently.

I.L.D. Drive to Save Negro Boys Launched

Daily Worker

Mobilizes to Get Pardon for 2 Facing Gallows on 'Rape' Charge

6-21-39

The International Labor Defense announced through its national office yesterday that it is mobilizing national support in behalf of the innocent "Blytheville Boys," Bubbles Clayton and Jim X. Carruthers, who after a farcical "trial" on a frameup charge of "rape" are scheduled to go to the gallows on June 30.

New York

In its campaign of getting pledges from trade union, church, civic and other leaders and organizations to throw their support behind defenders of the youths, the ILD is urging that letters and telegrams be sent to Gov. Carl E. Bailey, Little Rock, Ark., asking clemency for Clayton and Carruthers.

6-21-39

First charged with the shooting of a sheriff during the reign of terror against Negro and white sharecroppers early in 1935, the two youths were later held on "rape" charges as being more likely to enflame public opinion against them.

Arkansas Governor Electrocutes Negro Boys Over Protests

Daily Worker 7-7-39
New York, N.Y.

Framed 'Rape' Charges Put 2 Boys to Death; Mass Protests Fail to Move Gov. Bailey; Dodges Delegations Demanding Pardon

(By Federated Press)

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., July 5.—Electrocution of Bubbles Clayton and Jim X. Carruthers, Blytheville Negroes, framed on charges of rape, on June 30, climaxed a bitter fight which had taken the case of the two framed Negroes through the courts for four years and brought thousands of protests from justice-loving persons all over America.

Daily Worker

The execution came after a complicated series of runarounds by Arkansas' two similarly-named but unrelated chief executives, Gov. Carl Bailey and Lieut. Gov. Bob Bailey. The governor, besieged during a visit to New York by protests against the death of the two young Negroes, promised to hold hearings on his return to Little Rock. On his return, however, he successfully evaded delegations of liberal and Negro organizations for two days, then departed abruptly for Washington. Meanwhile Bob Bailey, in authority during the governor's absence, took the position that it would be "unethical" for him to hear any review of the case or to postpone the executions except on request of the governor.

Prison authorities announced that Carruthers had "confessed" a few moments before his death—an annoucement that was immediately hailed by the lieutenant governor as the "best answer" to the individuals and organizations who had flooded his office with demands. Attorneys for the Negroes and officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, however, regarded the purported confession with serious doubt, pointing out that the entire trial record was a maze of inconsistencies and prejudicial conditions. No newspaper men heard Carruthers' alleged statement. Clayton died protesting his innocence.

Pleas for a stay of execution had come from the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Commitee (CIO), the Newspaper Guild (CIO), and many other labor unions as well as from liberal and Negro organizations and from thousands of individuals.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

GEORGIA

6202

Says State Used "Race Issue" In Convicting Client

Atlanta World

Convicted on a charge of [illegible] sault" in Fulton County court Wednesday by a jury, a man listed as Thomas Norwood was meted a 15-20 year sentence by Judge Paul Etheridge after the jury had recommended mercy and affixed the sentence.

Atlanta 4-12-39

The offense for which Norwood was convicted is alleged to have happened December 7, 1937, and involved a white woman. Solicitor E. E. Andrews prosecuted the case for the state while the defendant was represented by Attorney Russell G. Turner.

Following the verdict Attorney Turner immediately filed an appeal for a new trial basing his contention on the fact that Prosecutor Andrews had introduced the "race issue" to convict his client.

Entering a plea of guilty after he had been indicted on four counts of burglary, Henry Taylor, alias Luther Stubblefield, was sentenced to serve from 2 to 10 years in the chaingang by Judge Paul Etheridge Wednesday evening.

NEGRO DIES IN CHAIR FOR MONROE ASSAULT

REIDSVILLE, Ga., July 7.—(AP) J. D. Vaughn, negro, convicted of assault at Monroe, died in the electric chair at the state prison here today as he sang "Oh My Jesus Have Mercy."

Constitution

The first shock was applied at 11:05 o'clock and he was pronounced dead six minutes later. Shortly before he was taken to the chair, Vaughn was baptized by Father Robert Brennan, of Savannah.

7-8-39

State troopers dispersed a crowd estimated at 1,500 persons with tear gas when the negro was tried May 22 and rushed him directly from the courtroom to the prison here.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

ILLINOIS

6204

6204

RAPIST HELD TO GRAND JURY IN SEX ATTACKS

Trapped as he kept an alleged rendezvous with the victim of a sex attack, John Sylvester Johnson, 5811 Indiana avenue, held in police custody since Apr. 24, was ordered bound over to the grand jury by Judge Matthew D. Hartigan in Felony Court Wednesday. Johnson was held under total bond of $60,000 on two charges of criminal assault and two of robbery.

5-14-39

He was captured last Wednesday night in Washington Park when a policewoman impersonated Miss Margaret Kimball, white student nurse, whom Johnson allegedly attacked near the Albert Merritt Billings hospital. He snatched his victim's purse containing $1: and her Social Security card.

Johnson was also identified by Mrs. Lulu Wood, 4937 So. Wabash avenue, Sergt. William Ryan of the Hyde Park police said, as the man who attacked her and robbed her of 11 cents on April 13 at 61st street and Wabash avenue.

Johnson's capture came about when he is alleged to have written Miss Kimball a threatening letter demanding that she meet him in Washington park Wednesday night. When he showed up to keep his rendezvous, police hidden in the shrubbery near the entrance at 58th street and Cottage Grove avenue, arrested him.

He at first denied any attacks but on Saturday at the sex offense bureau in the central police building he is alleged to have confessed before Asst. Atty. Samuel Papanek and Capt. Ray Crane of the Hyde Park station. When arrested he was carrying a .38 caliber revolver.

Man Tries Rape; Fined Only $100

Defender

John Washington, 29, 4150 Indiana avenue, was fined $10 and costs Wednesday by Judge Mathew J. Hartigan when arraigned in municipal court on charges of robbery and attempted rape.

5-20-39

Miss Gatha Amos, 20, of 336 East Forty-second street, told police Washington had accosted her Tuesday night at Forty-second street and Prairie avenue, and at the point of a knife had forced her to accompany him to his home, a short distance away.

When Washington took her purse after entering the hallway of the building and then attempted to push her into his room, the woman screamed and fought off her assailant. Tenants in the building, attracted by the commotion, called police. Officers Breen, English and Rassmussen, Fifth district, arrested Washington as he attempted to flee down an alley.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

KENTUCKY

6203

Death Sentence Given Negro in Rape Case

Times-Dispatch

LEXINGTON, KY. (AP)—Eugene Burnam, 15-year-old Negro, heard a jury sentence him to death for the second time yesterday for rape of a white woman last April 6.

[illegible]

Two Negroes were on the indicting Grand Jury and several were among persons summoned for trial jury service, but all were excused for cause.

Richmond, Va.

Burnam heard the verdict with no show of emotion.

Circuit Judge King Swope set aside the first conviction on the grounds improper evidence had been introduced.

6205

Defense Group Appeals Negro 'Rape' Frameup

ILD Charges Negro Youth Faced Biased Judge and Jury

Appearing before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, (Second Judicial Department) last week Samuel A. Neuburger, noted member of the I.L.D. legal staff, argued for the freedom of John Williams, young Negro, railroaded to a seven and half to fifteen year prison term on two charges of rape and assault.

He appeared in behalf of the John Williams Defense Committee of the International Labor Defense.

Williams was well-known and liked in Brooklyn, where he lived and worked for more than five years prior to the alleged "rape" of a young servant employed in the home of one of his employers. He was held without trial or hearing for 97 days until finally convicted in a prejudicial atmosphere that was reminiscent of the world famous Scottsboro trials and which formed the basis of a large portion of the I.L.D. appeal in the case.

BIAS CHARGED

Trial Judge Olin T. Nye of Beacon, N. Y., in charging the jury had stated: "He (Williams) is entitled to the same consideration at your hands as though he was white . . . and you should treat him as though he was a white man." Mr Neuburger ably stressed the obvious call to racial prejudice in remarks of this character which he said sought "to draw a distinction in law and morality based on the difference in the color of a man's skin."

On the question of the inconsistent verdict handed down by the jury which not only found John Williams guilty of "rape" but of "assault" as well, Mr. Neuburge pointed out that the judge's instructions had stated that they must find him guilty of one or the other because one negated the other and he could not possibly have been guilty of both!

Mr. Neuburger charged that this finding on the part of the jury indicated a determination to send Williams to prison. The decision is expected next week. Williams is now incarcerated in Sing Sing prison.

YOUTH TO GET NEW TRIAL IN RAPE FRAMEUP

Action Acclaimed Victory For Civil Liberties In New York

NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 22—The case of John Williams, a young worker framed on a flimsy rape charge more than a year and a half ago, culminated in a decisive victory against racial discrimination and for civil liberties this week when the appellate division of the New York state supreme court reversed his sentence from seven to 15 years and ordered a new trial.

Justices Edward Lanzansky, William F. Hagerty, Frank F. Adel, George H. Taylor, Jr., and Presiding Justice William B. Carswell, sitting in Brooklyn, voted unanimously to set aside the decision of Judge Olin T. Nye who sentenced Williams in the Kings County court after three days of contradictory testimony last June.

The five justices based their decisions on the ground that trial Judge Nye's ruling could not stand up under law and that the facts in the case were not sufficient to substantiate the verdict of guilty even if the law could be applied to the "evidence" produced against Williams at the trial.

Apparently the case was so obviously weak in point of law and fact that presiding Justice Carswell voted separately for the dismissal of the indictment against Williams. Unless the district attorney's office of Kings county produces new evidence, Williams will be freed.

Members of the John Williams Defense committee, which together with the International Labor Defense, conducted a vigorous campaign for Williams' freedom, were jubilant over the decision.

The I.L.D. announced the filing of a motion for complete dismissal of the indictment against young Williams.

Negro Youth's 'Rape' Jailing Is Reversed

Daily Worker

Brooklyn Conviction Is Hit by Court for Biased Verdict

12-12-39

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John Williams was indicted on two counts of first and second degree rape in 1938.

Friends in the neighborhood where Williams lived and worked testified as to his character, but the trial judge ignored the testimony of defense witnesses.

ILD IN DEFENSE GROUP

The Appellate Court also upheld five other contested points of law contained in the brief filed by Mr. Newberger and Samuel P. Shapiro: that the court erred in denying the defendant's motion to dismiss the count charging the crime of rape in the first degree; that the court erred in denying defendant's motion to dismiss the count charging the crime of assault in the second degree; that the court committed serious and substantial errors of law in the receipt and exclusion of evidence which were prejudicial to the defendant; that the verdict of the jury was inconsistent; and that since the verdict of the jury was against the weight of evidence, the Court erred in refusing to set it aside.

Members of the John Williams Defense Committee, which together with the International Labor Defense, conducted a vigorous campaign for Williams' freedom were jubilant over the decision They hailed it as a great victory for civil rights for Negroes in New York and expressed the hope that Williams would seen be free.

Mr. Newberger and Shapiro said they were glad the court decided in their favor, for they were always convinced of Williams' innocence

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

NORTH CAROLINA

6206

North Carolina Revamps Rape Statute; Will Pass Anti-lynching Legislation

Death Sentence to be Repealed on Rape Charge; Jury to Decide Enormity of Offense

Attorney General Suggests Eighteen Proposals

Black Dispatch

1-7-39

Oklahoma City Okla

RALEIGH, N. C.—(ANP)—Inspired, doubtless by the persistent fight in the 75th Congress for a Federal anti-lynch law and by the factual data of a recent survey showing that less than half the number of Negroes lynched as rapists were actually found guilty, it was revealed here last Thursday that far-reaching changes in the criminal statutes of North Carolina will be proposed by the 1939 General Assembly by the solicitors and Attorney General Harry McMullan.

Outstanding among the proposals being considered by the prisoners are: Repeal of the mandatory death sentence for rape; a rigid law against lynching; broadening of the embezzlement statute and life imprisonment for hardened offenders.

The attorney general, who would head the Department of Justice now proposed to increase law enforcement, headed his list with a proposal to allow juries to recommend life imprisonment in place of the mandatory death sentence for the felony of rape.

Answer to the state law enforcer to the popular demand for Federal anti-lynch legislation was a proposal for indicting members of a lynch mob for murder, defining a "mob", and compensating families of persons lynched. Attorney General McMullan submitted his 18 proposals to the district solicitors, for further recommendations, has invited comment and suggestions to their efficacy.

It was explained that a composite of the suggestions "to improve the criminal law structure of North Carolina" will reach the legislature in the form of a proposed bill or recommendations for a bill.

MURPHY NEGRO RAPIST IS SENTENCED TO DIE

Herald

4-6-39

Durham N.C.

Murphy, April 5—(AP)—Charles Fain, 26, Murphy Negro, was found guilty of rape and first degree burglary by a Cherokee county jury here tonight and was sentenced by Judge Zeb V. Nettles, of Asheville, to be executed in the lethal gas chamber at Raleigh on May 12. The jury deliberated one hour and 15 minutes.

Sheriff Carl Townson left here tonight with the prisoner for state prison Raleigh.

Fain was charged with entering a hospital here the night of last January 26, criminally assaulting a nurse and robbing a woman patient

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NORTH CAROLINA MAY CHANGE RAPE, LYNCH STATUTES

Courier

1-7-39

Pittsburgh Pa

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 5—(ANP)—Inspired, doubtless by the persistent fight in the Seventy-fifth Congress for a Federal anti-lynch law, and by the factual data of a recent survey showing that less than half the number of Negroes lynched as rapists were actually found guilty, it was revealed here last Thursday that far-reaching changes in the criminal statutes of North Carolina will be proposed to the 1939 General Assembly by the Solicitors and Attorney General Harry McMullan.

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WOULD RECOMMEND LIFE IMPRISONMENT

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LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGAL PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

TEXAS

6207

No Negroes on Jury; Condemned Rapist is Freed

AUSTIN, Tex., Feb. 23 — (ANP) — J. D. Johnson, sentenced to die for raping a white woman on April [illegible], 1938, was ordered freed last week by the state court of criminal appeals because, among other reasons, no Negro had served on a grand jury in the county where the trial was held for more than 30 years although a number were qualified.

In their appeal, Johnson's attorneys pointed to the supreme court decision in the Scottsboro case and said no Negro served on the jury which convicted him. The appeals court, highest tri-

Tigers. The game ended just as it had begun, with Pony Marable dropping a one-handed shot.

6208

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

OHIO'S MOB VIOLENCE ACT

OR ANTI-LYNCHING LAW LEADS THE COUNTRY IN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION

Gazette 12-30-39
Cleveland, Ohio

Against The Mob And Lynch-Murder—Three Years Work Of A Member Of The Race—Also His Ohio Civil Rights Law.

Our mob-violence or anti-lynching bill was introduced in the Ohio legislature in 1894 and re-introduced in 1896. It took the Hon. Harry C. Smith, editor of **The Gazette**, just three years to secure its enactment into law. The Ohio Supreme Court has several times upheld the constitutionality of the law and it has been very effective. Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have followed Ohio's lead and enacted mob violence or anti-lynching laws which are copies of our Ohio law. Several other northern states and at least one border state (Kentucky) have also enacted anti-lynching laws, in recent years. The Ohio law follows:

MOBS.

Section
6278. "Mob" and "lynching" defined.
6279. "Serious injury" defined.
6280. Damages in case of assault.
6281 Damages in case of lynching.
6282. Damages recoverable by legal representative of victim of lynching
6283. Person suffering death or injury by mob trying to lynch another
6284. Limitations of action.
6285. Order to include recovery and costs in tax levy.
6286. Guardian's custody, etc., fees.
6287. County's right of action against member of mob.
6288. County's right of action against another county.
6289. Non-relief from prosecution.

Section 6278. A collection of people assembled for an unlawful purpose and intending to do damage or injury to any one, or pretending to exercise correctional power over other persons by violence and without authority of law, shall be deemed a "mob" for the purpose of this chapter. An act of violence by a mob upon the body of any person shall constitute a "lynching" within the meaning of this chapter. (93 v. 161 2.)

Section 6279. The term "serious injury", for the purpose of this chapter, shall include such injury as permanently or temporarily disables the person receiving it from earning a livelihood by manual labor. (93 v. 161 3.)

Section 6280. A person taken from officers of justice by a mob, and assaulted with whips, clubs, missiles or in any other manner, may recover, as hereafter provided, a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars as damages from the county in which the assault is made . (93 v. 161 4.)

Section 6281. A person assaulted and lynched by a mob may recover from the county in which such assault is made, a sum not to exceed five hundred dollars; or, if the injury received therefrom is serious, a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars; or, if such injury result in permanent disability, to earn a livelihood by manual labor, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars. (93 v. 162 5.)

Section 6282. The legal representative, of a person dying from injuries received from lynching by a mob, may recover of the county in which such injury occurred, a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars damages for such unlawful killing. Such sum shall be applied to the maintenance of the family and education of the minor children of such person so lynched, if any survive him, until such children are of legal age, and share and share alike, the widow receiving an amount equal to a child's share. If there be no widow or minor children surviving such decedent, such sum shall be distributed among the next of kin according to the laws of the distribution of the personality of an intestate. Such sum so recovered shall not be a part of the estate of such person so lynched, nor be subject to any of his liabilities. (93 v. 162 6.)

Section 6283. A person suffering death or injury from a mob attempting to lynch another person shall come within the provisions of this chapter. He or his legal representatives shall have a like right of action as one purposely injured or killed by such a mob. (93 v. 162 6.)

Section 6284. Action for the recoveries provided for in this chapter must be commenced, within two years from the date of such lynching, in any court having original jurisdiction of an action for damages for malicious assault. (93 v. 162 7.)

Section 6285. An order to the commissioners of a county, against which such recovery is had, to include it with the costs of action, in the next succeeding tax levy for such county, shall be a part of the judgment in every such case. (93 v 162 8.)

Section 6286. If the decedent so lynched has minor children surviving him, the fund shall be turned over to a regularly appointed guardian. Such guardian shall administer such fund under the direction of the probate judge, allowing not more than five hundred dollars for counsel fees in the action for such recovery. (93 v. 162 9.)

Section 6287. The county, in which a lynching occurs may recover the amount of a judgment and costs against it in favor of the legal representatives of a person killed or seriously injured by a mob from any of the persons composing such mob. A person present, with hostile intent, at such lynching shall be deemed a member of the mob and be liable to such action. (93 v. 162 10.)

Section 6288. If a mob carries a prisoner into another county, or comes from another county to commit violence on a prisoner brought from such county for safekeeping, the county in which the lynching is committed may recover the amount of the judgment and costs from the county from which the mob came unless there was contributory negligence on the part of officials of such county in failing to protect such prisoner or disperse such mob. (93 v. 163 11.)

Section 6289. This chapter shall not relieve a person concerned in such lynching from prosecution for homicide or assault for engaging therein . (93 v. 133 12.)

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS LAW.

Upon the request of many readers of **The Gazette** we print below the text of the Hon. Harry C. Smith's Ohio Civil Rights law which the editor had enacted while a member of the 71st General Assembly, in 1894.

The General Code of Ohio:

SEC. 12940. Whoever, being the proprietor or his employee, keeper or manager of an inn, restaurant, eating house, barber shop, public conveyance by air, land, or water, theater, store or other place for the sale of merchandise, or any other place of public accomodation or amusement, denies to a citizen, except for reasons applicable alike to all citizens and regardless of color or race, the full enjoyment of the accomodations, advantages, facilities or privileges thereof, or, being a person who aids or incites the denial thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days, or both.

SEC. 12941. Whoever violates the next preceding section shall also pay not less than fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars to the person aggrieved thereby to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county where such offense was committed.

This law has repeatedly been held constitutional and good law by the Ohio Supreme court. The trouble is our people will not use it as often as they should, but expect it to do for them what they should and must do for themselves, **under it in the courts.**

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6209

Anti-Lynching Bill In House January 8th

Preferred Calendar Position Will Bring To Floor On First Monday; Voters Urged To See Congressmen

NEW YORK—The Gavagan-Fish Anti Lynching bill (H. R. 801, which is on the top of the Congress calendar, will be called up in the House of Representatives, Monday, January 8, 1940 according to an announcement made here today by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The announcement followed a conference held here in Representative Joseph Gavagan's office Tuesday November 2,. Those present at the conference included: Rep. Gavagan (D. of N. Y.) who has piloted the measure through several Congressional battles; Rep. Hamilton Fish (R. of N Y.) who recently withdrew support from his own anti lynching bill to back the Gavagan bill; Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP; Arthur B. Spingarn, chief of the NAACP's national legal committee; and Thurgood Marshall special legal counsel for the association.

Plaindealer

At the conference it was agreed that Gavagan and Fish would lead the two-party campaign to get the bill passed in the House.

12-1-39

The NAACP has written to each of the 218 Congressmen who signed the discharge petition, which forced the bill out of the committee and indirectly made possible its present preferred position on the House calendar, urging them to be in Washing on January 8 and on the floor of the House, and also to be present on each day thereafter to prevent opponents from attempting to kill the bill. A similar request was sent to all Congressmen who come from states where Negro citizens have the right to vote, but did not sign the dischage petition.

Kansas

The bill is being brought up on January 8, because under the rules of the House of Representatives the second and fourth Mondays of the month are the legislative days on which action on discharge petitions may be taken. January 8 is the second Monday of the month.

Pointing out that the fight to destroy this bill will be no less bitter than it was during the last session of Congress, officials of the association urged all members of NAACP branches throughout the country to virst their congressmen now at home and urge them to be on the floor of the House January 8, when the bill is scheduled to be brought up, to vote for the bill, and to stay on the floor until the bill is passed.

The association announcement made a similar appeal to organizations and individuals who have supported the bill in the past. This procedure is necessary in order to keep opponents from ganging up in the fight to kill the bill in the absence of supporters of the measure.

Opponents of the anti lynch bill are certain to be on the floor at all times, as they have in past fights, seeking to take advantage of the smallest opportunity to kill the bill. They may (1) vote against the adoption of the rule calling the bill up for debate; (2) vote to recommit the bill, which would bury it for the rest of the session; (3) vote to strike out the enactment clause.

If the supporters of the anti lynching bill are not present in sufficient force on January 8, the opponents of the bill may muster sufficient strength to vote against the adoption of a rule to recommit and that would be the end of the bill for this session of Congress.

"It is imperative that voters and citizens urge their congressmen to be on the floor on the opening day," NAACP officials said. "The bill can be passed and will be passed if the congressmen who have indicated their support will stay on the floor and fight."

In addition to a strong campaign to get congressmen to Washington in time to do effective work in behalf of the bill, the NAACP urged citizens to send contribusions to the National office of the Association, at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, in order to finance the drive, that is already faced with a deficit of more than $4,000 from the previous campaign.

Citizens—Page Your Senators!

The Anti-Lynching Bill like the Bonus Bill will continue to come up until it is finally passed.

Daily Record

Latest reports disclose that it will come up the first week in January. It will be sponsored this time by a Republican and a Democrat. The tactics resorted to by certain senators who staged the record filibusters killing the bill in former congresses will hardly be reenacted. The shameful method of wilful men staging the un-American tactics of preventing an honest vote and a fair court on a measure of so much interest to the American people would be very inappropriate at this time.

12-16-39

Atlanta Ga.

Any such movement at this time could be interpreted as nothing short of a bold stroke at the under-privileged—those who have suffered every phase of lawlessness. Our country at this time, could hardly tolerate war being waged on a portion of its people. America is calling on every citizen to do his part. That part comprises unstinted loyalty and true devotion that cannot be arrived at from any other source than fair treatment. It is quite befitting that the anti-lynch bill have another inning during the coming session of Congress. It stands the best chance since the old Dyer days to be incorporated into the laws of this country.

Anti-Lynching Bill, On Preferred Calendar Position In Congress, To Come Up In House On January 8th

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Age

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12-3-39

New York

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Predict Bitter Fight

Pointing out that the fight to destroy this bill will be no less bitter than it was during the last session of Congress, officials of the association urged all members of N.A.A.C.P. branches throughout the country to visit their Congressmen now at home and urge them to be on the floor of the House January 8, when the bill is scheduled to be brought up; to vote for the bill, and to stay on the floor until the bill is passed.

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Predict Lynch Bill Passage By Congress

Indiana

Indiana Representative Praises Leadership Of Walter White

12-21-39

HAMMOND, Ind.—The Gavagan-Fish federal Anti-lynching bill, which comes up for a vote on the floor of the House January 8, will pass by overwhelming majority.

This was the prediction made Sunday by Representative William T. Schulte, who was the chief speaker at a meeting held at the St. John A. M. E. Zion church here to launch the annual membership drive of the Hammond branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Praising the leadership given to the long fights to pass the bill, by Walter White, Executive Secretary of the Association, Schulte said that he, together with a great many Congressmen, had cooperated in fighting for the bill. Other speakers at the meeting included:

Mayor Frank R. Martin, who introduced Representative Schulte; Dr. Dennis A. Bethea, the Rev. George W. Rivers, pastor of the church; J. C. Jacobs, president of the branch, who presided; and W. D. Allimoni, an officer of the Association's Chicago branch.

Congressmen Will Support Lynch Bill

Norfolk

New York, Dec. 8—Replies of Representatives and Senators are coming into the headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here daily, in response to a nation-wide letter campaign to Congressmen urging them to be in Washington at the opening of Congress and to be on the floor of the House when the anti-lynching bill comes up, the Association announced here today.

12-15-39

Some eighty Representatives have told the NAACP that they will support the bill, and twenty-eight Senators have indicated that they will give attention to the legislation.

LEADERS OF C. I. O. FOR LYNCH BILL

Executive Officers to Work Actively for Passage

Call 12-15-39

NEW YORK.—The executive officers of the Congress of Industrial Organizations will work actively for passage of the federal anti-lynching bill, according to information released here by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Decision on the part of the C.I.O. to work actively for the bill, was contained in a resolution passed unanimously by the second constitutional convention of the labor group held last October in San Francisco.

Kansas City

The resolution pointed out that the anti-lynching bill will pave the way for extending the benefits of the New Deal and democracy to millions of Negro workers and under-privileged white workers," and would help "the free organization of labor."

The convention also passed a resolution pledging the C.I.O. to an "uncompromising opposition to any form of discrimination, whether political or economic, based upon race, color, creed or nationality."

Georgian Seeking Freedom Signs Anti-Lynch Petition

Journal & Guide 12-23-39 Norfolk, Va.

NEW YORK—"We want you all to look into everything and get liberty and freedom for us. All of us colored people are praying to God that the anti-lynching bill will pass."

These were the poignant words which came out of an obscure Georgia town in a letter received last week by the NAACP. The letter contained an anti-lynching bill petition filled out with twenty-five signatures.

The letter and the petition came in response to an appeal last week calling for the return of all anti-lynching petitions to the association's headquarters at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, before January 1, the deadline set for filing a complete list of the returns.

PROBLEMS CITED

The letter said further in part:

> "Listen, National Association Advancement of Colored People: the colored people have not got no liberty and no freedom down here. "We want to have liberty as well as any other nation in the world. We want colored grand jury down here, colored officers of all kind here.

"It is another thing; it is so many people got children and can't make enough to buy food and clothing, so they can send the children to school. So they can't get much learning."

Commenting on the letter, Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, said:

"These moving words from a poor, but courageous soul in Georgia, give us renewed strength to fight for passage of the anti-lynching bill. In this letter is the fundamental issue around which this fight must be waged. Here is the reason why we must have funds, and quickly, in order to put the Federal Government on record squarely behind this fight."

Anti-Lynch Bill Will Pass — Representative

Journal 12-23-39

HAMMOND, Ind.—The Gavagan-Fish Anti-lynching Bill which comes up for a vote on the floor of the House, January 8, will pass by overwhelming majority.

This was the prediction made this week by Representative William T. Schulte, chief speaker at a meeting in the St. John AMEZ Church here to launch the annual membership drive of the Hammond branch of the NAACP.

6210

LYNCHINGS - 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

MITCHELL WANTS ANTI-LYNCH BILL ACTION HELD UP UNTIL JANUARY TERM OF CONGRESS

Call 10-13-39

Congressman Would Vote Against Consideration of Measure at Present Special Session

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) — When Congressman Arthur Mitchell declared Tuesday that he was not in favor of bringing the anti-lynching bill before the present session of congress and would vote against such a procedure, much speculation on the fate of the anti-lynching bill was begun.

Kansas City

Mr. Mitchell, the sole Negro in congress, declared he would vote against consideration of the bill provide dno other anti-neutrality legislation was brought up.

Leaders of both parties have agreed that no extraneous matters will be permitted to rise in the house at least until the neutrality bill is disposed of, but they would be unable to prevent a vote on consideration of the anti-lynching bill because of tis privileged status.

As the bill now stands, it has priority claims over all other legislation and any action at present might tend to jeapordize that position.

Representative Schafer of Wisconsin has been threatening to call the bill this week.

"On the understanding that failure to consider the measure now would not impair its chances in January," Mitchell said, "I would vote against bringing it up at this time."

There has been a great deal of talk on the possibility of bringing the anti-lynch bill before this session inasmuch as the bill will be the first to be considered when congress convenes in its regular session in January. However, any consideration of the bill at this session will not be in line with the strategy of the administration which hopes to confine all debates to neutrality.

Congressional Leaders To Discuss Lynch Bill

Tribune 10-26-39 Philadelphia

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Further discussions on the Gavagan-Wagener-Van Nuys federal anti-lynching bill were undertaken early this week when Walter White arrived in Washington to confer with Congressional leaders on the pending legislation.

Reiterating the Association's position on the bill, expressed in a statement issued last fortnight, White said:

"We do not intend to have the bill brought up during the special session unless it is clearly indicated that other legislation than Neutrality will be taken up by the Congressional leaders. We intend, however, to do everything in the way of protecting the preferred position of the bill on the House calendar."

Anti-Lynching Bill Will Be Called Up On Nov. 6th If Congress Is Still In Session

Age 11-4-39 New York

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The federal anti-lynching bill will be called up in the House Monday, November 6, if neutrality legisation has been disposed of in the Senate by that time and if Congress has not yet adjourned.

This announcement was made Saturday by Representative Joseph Gavagan, sponsor of the bill in the House. At present the bill occupies a preferred position, standing first on the House calendar of legislation that is to be taken up during the regular session of Congress.

Representative Gavagan's announcement followed a statement issued last week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which said in part:

"We do not intend to try to have the bill brought up during the special session of Congress unless it is clearly indicated that other legislation than Neutrality will be taken up by Congressional leaders."

Coincident with Gavagan's statement the N. A. A. C. P. issued a call for funds to support the anti-lynching bill fight, to meet probable emergency action in order to save the bill. The long filibuster waged against the bill in 1938 under the leadership of Southern reactionaries left a large deficit in the N. A. A. C. P. anti-lynching fund.

"If the fight is to be made effective this year," the statement said, "we need funds at once for literature, and particularly for telegraph expenses. A typical example of this expense item is, contained in a statement made by Representative Gavagan recently in which he pointed out the necessity of keeping in close touch with more than 300 Representatives who are favorably disposed toward passage of the bill. These Congressmen received hundreds of letters every day, so that it is necessary to reach and hold their attention by means of telegrams. This is necessary in order to get them to appear on the floor of the House when the bill is called up. Enemies of the bill will always be on hand, and so it is necessary to keep the friends of the bill constantly advised about its status and when they are needed on the floor of the House."

The Association also announced that more than 115,000 petitions calling for passage of the bill had been received to date.

THE ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Defender 11-11-39 Chicago

What has become of the anti-lynching bill during this session of a Congress which has let the noise of guns in Europe deafen it to the crying needs of the millions in America's own borders?

For that matter, what has become of all the social measures which were embraced in that great vision called the New Deal, a vision which could have been realized had not the New Dealers abandoned their fortress and marched under war pressure, into the camp of their enemies?

As the danger of new lynchings mounts with increased war hysteria, erstwhile congressional liberals seem content to let the anti-lynching bill rest in the grave where it was buried alive by Southern bourbon senators.

One of these apologists for the rope and faggot—a man who filibustered loud and long against the bill—was none other than Senator Tom Connally, of Texas, who now declares of this neutral country that "we (America) will never win this war if the embargo is not lifted."

Overwhelming pressure from Race citizens and organizations is needed if the anti-lynching bill is to be revived and passed. A congress whose only domestic policy is to sponsor bills suggested by that other stalwart Texan, Martin Dies, is not likely to concern itself with the rights of a racial minority unless—

That minority speaks with a voice of thunder which will drown out the long-winded oratory of the most illiterate congressman from Georgia.

Actually, the very presence of bills to outlaw certain political groups and to intern the foreign-born endangers the passage of the anti-lynching bill.

We know from past experience that we always suffer the last and most drastic penalties in any repressive legislation; that Race citizens have been lynched in the South for violating laws which restricted the constitutional right of free assembly; that sharecroppers have been shot down in Alabama both because they demanded economic reforms and were colored.

The fight against repressive legislation is also the fight for the anti-lynching bill. It is most emphatically the fight of the Race to live as free citizens in a free country.

What Has Become Of The Anti-Lynching Bill

Globe 11-17-39 Nashville, Tenn.

Our esteemed contemporary, The Chicago Defender, asks the all-important question: What has become of the Anti-lynching Bill? We answer, that it has been lost in the flow of Negro oratory and resolutions of Negro New Deal leaders, who like our President, refuses to commit himself on the question when Walter White, the secretary of the NAACP, asked him would he support the anti-lynching bill and put it on his "must list." The hat in hand brigade of self-appointed Negro New Dealers have been so busy denouncing Germany for persecuting the Jews, they have forgotten all about the anti-lynching bill pending before Congress. All the group thinks about, is some way to keep their name on the Federal pay roll, and care nothing for the masses whose names are not on the pay rolls. If I can just keep my name on the pay roll, is their one thought.

A house divided against itself will fall and the man who looks after himself only at the expense of everybody else will soon starve. This class of Negroes do not want anything. All they want is a meal ticket; they have no thought of personal liberty or the freedom of all the people. They want no responsibility; in a way they are like children depending upon their parents for support, and have no thought of what will be their condition when the depression and relief is ended. They like to live in Government houses where hot water, lights and every modern improvement is provided at a minimum rent. Losing all their self-initiative and spirit of self-support.

They are not thinking of the Anti-lynching Bill for the reason, they are not interested in personal liberty, freedom of speech, free press and an equal opportunity to earn an honest living with other people. They have no intelligent conception of the duties and responsibilities of citizenship; but we are contented to remain in charge of the Government like a set of drones and paupers. This class of Negro people care not who wins in the war, the Allies or Germany, their one thought is a meal ticket.

—Union-Review.

SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMEN IMPERATIVE

Bee 12-3-39
Chicago, Ill.

Voters Urged To Write Salons

NEW YARK,—The Gavagan-Fish Anti-Lynching Bill (H. R.-801), which is on the top of the Congress calendar, will be called up in the House of Representatives, Monday, January 8, 1940, according to an announcement made here Friday by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The announcement followed a conference held here in Representative Joseph Gavagan's office Tuesday, November 21. Those present at the conference included: Rep. Gavagan, (D. of N. Y.) who has piloted the measure through several Congressional battles; Rep. Hamilton Fish (R. of N. Y.) who recently withdrew support from his own Anti-lynching bill to back the Gavagan bill, Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.; Arthur B. Spingarm, chief of the N.A.A.C.P.'s national legal committee; and Thurgood Marshall, special legal counsel for the association.

Gavagan, Fish Lead Fight

At the conference it was agreed that Gavagan and Fish would lead the two-party campaign to get the bill passed in the House.

The bill is being brought up on January 8, because under the rules of the House of Representatives the second and fourth Mondays of the month are the legislative days on which action on discharge petitions may be taken. Voters are urged to write their Congressmen urging support of the measure.

Supporters Urged to be Present

If the supporters of the anti-lynching bill are not present in sufficient force on January 8, the opponents of the bill may muster sufficient strength to vote against the adoption of a rule or to recommit and that would be the end of the bill for this session of Congress.

[illegible] N.A.A.C.P. also urged [illegible]ns to send contributions to the National office of the Association, at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, in order to finance the drive, that is already faced with a deficit of more than $4,000 from the previous campaign.

Gavagan To Lead Battle

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga
11-24-39

Bitter Fight Ahead Is Seen By Supporters

NEW YORK — (SNS) — The Gavagan-Fish Anti-lynching bill (H.R. - 801), which is on the top of the Congress calendar, will be called up in the House of Representatives, Monday, January 8, 1940 according to an announcement made here by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The announcement followed a conference held here in Representative Joseph Gavagan's office Tuesday, November 21. Those present at the conference included Rep. Gavagan (D. of N. Y.) who has piloted the measure through several Congressional battles; Rep Hamilton Fish (R. of N. Y.) who recently withdrew support from his own Anti-lynching bill to back the Gavagan bill; Walter White, executive secretary of the N. A. A. C. P.; Arthur B. Spingarn, chief of the N. A. A. C. P.'s national legal committee; and Thurgood Marshall special legal counsel for the association.

TWO TO LEAD FIGHT

At the conference it was agreed that Gavagan and Fish would lead the two-party campaign to get the bill passed in the House.

The NAACP has written to each of the 218 Congressmen who signed the discharge petition which forced the bill out of committee and indirectly made possible its present preferred position on the House calendar, urging them to be in Washington on January 8 and on the floor of the House, and also to be present on each day thereafter to prevent opponents from attempting to kill the bill.

A similar request was sent to all Congressmen who come from states where Negro citizens have the right to vote, but did not sign the discharge petition.

SEE BITTER FIGHT

The bill is being brought up on January 8, because under the rules of the House of Representatives the second and fourth Mondays of the month are the legislative days on which action on discharge petitions may be taken. January 8 is the second Monday of the month.

Pointing out that the fight to destroy this bill will be no less bitter than it was during the last session of Congress, officials of the association urged all members of NAACP branches throughout the country to visit their congressmen now at home and urge them to be on the floor of the House January 8, when the bill is scheduled to be brought up; to vote for the bill, and to stay on the floor until the bill is passed.

The association announcement made a similar appeal to organizations and individuals who have supported the bill in the past. This procedure is necessary in order to keep opponents from ganging up in the fight to kill the bill in the absence of supporters of the measure.

OPPONENTS TO BE ACTIVE

Opponents of the anti-lynch bill are certain to be on the floor at all times, as they have in past fights seeking to take advantage of the smallest opportunity to kill the bill. They may (1) vote against the adoption of the rule calling the bill up for debate; (2) vote to recommit the bill, which would kill it for the rest of the session; (3) vote to strike out the enactment clause.

Daily World
12-9-39

If the supporters of the anti-lynching bill are not present in sufficient force on January 8, the opponents of the bill may muster sufficient strength to vote against the adoption of a rule or to recommit and that would be the end of the bill for this session of Congress.

"It is imperative that voters and citizens urge their congressmen to be on the floor on the opening day," NAACP officials said. "The bill can be passed and will be passed if the congressmen who have indicated their support will stay on the floor and fight."

In addition to a strong campaign to get Congressmen to Washington in time to do effective work in behalf of the bill, the NAACP urged citizens to send contributions to the national office of the association, at 69 Fifth avenue, New York, in order to finance the drive, that is already faced with a deficit of more than $4,000 from the previous campaign.

Lynching Must Go!

Plaindealer
12-15-39
Kansas City Kansas

As 1940 approaches and the United States is gradually wiping out un-American practices, we feel that there should be a Federal law against lynching. According to reports, the anti-lynching bill is supposed to come up before Congress sometimes in January. Also it is reported that January 1, is the deadline on sending in resolutions for the passage of the bill. It appears to this newspaper that the passage of such a vital law should come about without any combat. Why, such a bill should be passed with our Senators and Congressmen offering up prayer.

Lynching means this nation no good and as long as one lynching is permitted, America is yet living in the dark ages. It would be a fine thing if our Senators and Congressmen would resolve that in 1940 they will enact into federal law, the anti-lynching bill. There is more work to be done, and good Americans cannot spend all of their time on one issue. So Mr. Senator and Mr. Congressman vote for the passage of the Anti-Lynching bill as your New Year resolution!

Predicts Passage Of Anti-Lynch Bill

Defender
12-30-39
Chicago

HAMMOND, Ind., Dec. 22—The Gavagan-Fish federal anti-lynching bill, which comes up for a vote on the floor of the House, January 8, will pass by overwhelming majority.

This was the prediction made Sunday by Representative William T. Schulte, who was the chief speaker at a meeting held at the St. John A.M.E. Zion church here to launch the annual membership drive of the Hammond branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Praising the leadership given to the long fight to pass the bill by Walter White, executive secretary of the association, Schulte said that he, together with a great many congressmen, had cooperated in fighting for the bill. Other speakers at the meeting included:

Mayor Frank R. Martin who introduced Representative Schulte; Dr Dennis A Bethea the Rev. George W. Rivers, pastor of the church; J. C. Jacobs, president of the branch, who presided, and W. D. Allimoni, an officer of the association's Chicago branch.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6211

Anti-Lynching Bill Up In House January 8th

NEW YORK, Dec. 1—The Gavagan-Fish anti-lynching bill (H.R.-801), which is on the top of the Congress calendar, will be called up in the House of Representatives Monday Jan. 8, 1940, according to an announcement made here Friday by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Chicago Ill.

The announcement followed a conference held here in Representative Joseph Gavagan's office on Tuesday, Nov. 21. Those present at the conference included: Representative Gavagan, (D., of N. Y.) who has piloted the measure through several Congressional battles; Rep. Hamilton Fish (R., of N.Y.) who recently withdrew support from his own anti-lynching bill to back the Gavagan bill; Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.; Arthur B. Spingarn, chief of the N.A.A.C.P.'s national legal committee; and Thurgood Marshall, special legal counsel for the association.

Defender

At the conference it was agreed that Gavagan and Fish would lead the two-party campaign to get the bill passed in the House.

Write Congressmen

The N.A.A.C.P. has written to each of the 218 Congressmen who signed the discharge petition which forced the bill out of committee and indirectly made possible its present preferred position on the House calendar urging them to be in Washington on January 8 and on the floor of the House, and also to be present on each day thereafter to prevent opponents from attempting to kill the bill.

12-2-39

A similar request was sent to all Congressmen who come from states where Race citizezns have the right to vote, but did not sign the discharge petition.

The bill is being brought up on January 8, because under the rules of the House of Representatives the second and fourth Mondays of the month are the legislative days on which action on discharge petitions may be taken. January 8 is the second Monday of the month.

Pointing out that the fight to destroy this bill will be no less bitter than it was during the last session of Congress, officials of the association urged all members of the N.A.A.C.P. branches throughout the country to visit their Congressmen now at home and urge them to be on the floor of the House, January 8, when the bill is scheduled to be brought up; to vote for the bill, and to stay on the floor until the bill is passed.

Defender

12-2-39

Makes Appeal

The association announcement made a similar appeal to organizations and individuals who have supported the bill in the past. This procedure is necessary in order to keep opponents from ganging up in the fight to kill the bill in the absence of supporters of the measure.

Chicago Ill.

Opponents of the anti-lynch bill are certain to be on the floor at all times, as they have in past fights seeking to take advantage of the smallest opportunity to kill the bill.

They may (1) vote against the adoption of the rule calling the bill up for debate; (2) vote to recommit the bill, which would bury it for the rest of the session; (3) vote to strike out the enactment clause.

If the supporters of the anti-lynching bill are not present in sufficient force on January 8, the opponents of the bill may muster sufficient strength to vote against the adoption of a rule or to recommit and that would be the end of the bill for this session of Congress.

In addition to a strong campaign to get Congressmen to Washington in time to do effective work in behalf of the bill, the N.A.A.C.P urged citizens to send contributions to the National office of the association, at 69 Fifth avenue, New York, in order to finance the drive that is already faced with a deficit of more than $4,000 from the previous campaign.

PASSAGE OF LYNCH BILL DEPENDS ON CONTINUED LABOR SPLIT, IS RUMOR

Courier 11-25-39

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22—(ANP)—Passage of federal anti-lynching legislation at the next session of Congress depends on whether the two big rival factions of labor have kissed and made up.

Pittsburgh Pa

At least, that's the story going the rounds here. The Democrats are looking to the 1940 elections. President Roosevelt is trying to make peace between the CIO and AFL in order to assure a united labor front vote for his party next year. But should his efforts fail, the anti-lynching bill will be passed to cement the Negro vote behind the Democratic presidential nominee and thus assure the party of a sizeable support.

'We Want Liberty' Say Georgians Who Signed Lynching Petition

NEW YORK (SNS)—"We want you all to look into everything and get liberty and freedom for us. All of us Colored people are praying to God that the Anti-Lynching bill will pass."

These were the poignant but stirring words that came out of an obscure Georgia town in a letter received by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The letter contained an Anti-lynching bill petition filled out completely with twenty-five signatures. All of the signatures showed a labored writing that bespoke grimy toil, high courage, and real hope.

DON'T PUBLISH NAME

For obvious reasons the Association did not make public the author of the letter or the name of the town from which it was received. The letter and the petition came to the NAACP in response to an appeal sent out last week calling for the returning of all Anti-lynching petitions to the Association's headquarters at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, before January 1, the deadline set for filing a complete list of returns.

Explaining why the petition was not sent in sooner, the author of the letter said:

"You all must excuse me for not writing before now. I was sick then, so I got down and couldn't go. But I gave the petition to some of my friends and they told me they sent them in to you. So now by the Lord's help I am up and got this blank and send it to you."

TELLS OF PROBLEM

The deep understanding of what is going on in the world today is shown by this unlettered NAACP worker in Georgia, when he tells of some of the problems affecting Colored People in the South, and how they look out on the world scene today. The letter continues:

"Listen, National Association Advancement of Colored People: the colored people have not got no liberty and no freedom down here. Listen, the colored people have been to two wars and come back for passage of the Bill, the writer closes the letter with this statement:

Poignant Appeal Sent to Office Of the NAACP

"We want you all to look into everything and get liberty and freedom for us. All of us Colored people are praying to God that the Anti-lynching bill will pass."

Commenting on the letter, Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, said:

"These moving words from a poor, but courageous soul in Georgia give us renewed strength to fight for passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill. In this letter is the fundamental issue around which this fight must be waged. Here is the reason why we must have funds, and quickly, in order to put the Federal Government on record squarely behind this fight."

Georgians Who Signed Anti-Lynch Petition, Pray For Its Passage

NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 22—"We want you all to look into everything and get liberty and freedom for us. All of us colored people are praying to God that the anti-lynching bill will pass."

These were the poignant and stirring words that last week came out of an obscure Georgia town in a letter received last week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The letter contained an anti-lynching bill petition filled out completely with 25 signatures. All of the signatures showed a labored writing that bespoke grimy toil high courage, and real hope.

For obvious reasons the association did not make public the author of the letter or the name of the town from which it was received. The letter and the petition came to the N.A.A.C.P. in response to an appeal sent out last week calling for the returning of all anti-lynching petitions to the association's headquarters at 69 Fifth avenue, New York, before January 1, the deadline set for filling a complete list of the returns.

Explains Delay

Explaining why the petition was not sent in sooner, the author of the letter said:

"You all must excuse me for not writing before now. I was sick then, so I got down and couldn't go. But I gave the petition to some of my friends and they told me they sent them in to you. So now by the Lord's help I am up and got this blank and send it to you."

The deep understanding of what is going on in the world today is shown by this unlettered N.A.A.C.P. worker in Georgia, when he tells of some of the problems affecting the Race in the South, and how they look out on the world scene today. The letter continues:

"Listen, National Association Advancement of Colored People: the colored people have not got no library and no freedom down here. Listen, the colored people have been to two wars and come back home, and the white people kill and beat and treat us bad than any nation in the world.

Make Urgent Plea

"We ought to have liberty as well as any other nation in the world. We want colored grand jury down here, colored officers of all kind here. It is another thing; it is so many people got children and can't make enough to buy food and clothing, so they can send they children to school. So they can't get much learning."

Concluding this stirring appeal for passage of the bill, the writer closes the letter with this statement:

"We want you all to look into everything and get liberty and freedom for us. All of us colored people are praying to God that the anti-lynching bill will pass."

LYNCHINGS - 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6212

First Lady Backs Anti-Lynch Bill

Atlanta - World - Atlanta, Ga.

1-18-39

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt is shown as she told delegates to the second national conference on the Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth that she favored enactment of a federal anti-lynching law, educational opportunities for Negroes and the employment of Negroes by civil service. She appeared before the conference, held in the Departmental Auditorium in Washington on Jan. 12.

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, director of the Division of Negro Affairs, NYA, who sponsored the conference, is shown seated at the presiding officer's table. The eye-glasses seen on the table are Mrs. Bethune's. (Acme photo).

200 ARE PRESENT

The conference was the second annual meeting sponsored by the National Youth Administration. More than 200 prominent citizens were invited to attend the session, which was held here January 12-14. It was held for the purpose of discussing problems of the Negro and Negro youth.

The meetings were held in conference rooms A, B, and C and Departmental auditorium adjacent to the Department of Labor.

Negro exhibits that were on display at the Texas Centennial held recently in Dallas drew the attention of visiting delegates.

The conference opened Thursday morning with Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, chairman, stating the purpose and procedure of the occasion. Following Mrs. Bethune in the role of speakers were Jesse O. Thomas, Walter White, John W. Davis, Aubrey Williams and Dr. M. O. Bousfield.

YOUTH PANEL HELD

A timely and very informative youth panel discussion was conducted Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell presiding as chairman. Assisting her were Edward Strong, Pauline Redmond, Stanley Jackson and John Doggett.

Mrs. Roosevelt spoke at 4 P.M Thursday. She brought greetings from the President. Following her opening remarks she called for questions from the floor.

After expressing her views on the anti-lynching measure, she answered questions concerning education, social security and war

She said she would like to see the Federal Government take steps to equalize educational opportunities and make provisions for all children to have the same educational advantages.

Mrs. Roosevelt told her audienc that she favors social security fo rural citizens and that she thought colored persons should be trained for war service.

Anti-Lynch Bill Serving Purpose, Mrs. Ames Says

Atlanta World

Atlanta, Ga.

1-27-39

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching began its annual two-day meeting at the Piedmont Hotel Thursday, with leaders from all parts of the south on hand to take part in panel discussions and help formulate a program for the year.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the association, revealed that the group will work for radio police patrols "because they can mobilize so much quicker" in cases of emergency. Mrs. Ames pointed out that Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina do not provide radio communication for their state patrols while Florida and Kentucky have no state patrols at all.

The association will not sponsor legislation to provide radio communication, Mrs. Ames said, but will work with co-operating organization in each state. It was pointed out that between eighty and ninety organizations in the south co-operate in the educational program against lynshing.

Mrs. Ames expressed the opinion that federal anti-lynch proposal "has served to make us more lynch-conscious." She did not discuss the anti-lynch measure proposed in the present Congress.

Witnesses On Mob Bill Suggested

Atlanta World

Atlanta Ga

2-3-39

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—A list of distinguished white and colored witnesses who might be invited to testify in favor of a federal anti-lynching bill was suggested to the sponsors of the legislation this week by the NAACP.

Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, Frederick Van Nuys, of Indiana, and Arthur Caper of Kansas, were supplied the list by Walter White, NAACP secretary.

The list includes white and colored people, men and women, from the North and the South.

Their testimony, it was said would touch not only upon the crime of lynching itself, but upon the social and economic consequences of the unchecked practice of lynching.

Antilynching Bill Is Favored By Mrs. Roosevelt

Atlanta World

1-15-39

By MRS. W. A. SCOTT

WASHINGTON—(S N S)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told a meeting of the National Conference on Negro Youth Thursday that she favors swift enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law and proposed that its provisions be applied to all forms of mob violence.

She expressed her views in response to a question from the conference floor.

WON'T STOP LYNCHING

"I doubt very much of a law will actually stop lynching," she said. "But I would like to see it passed, because it puts us, as a whole, against something which we should all be against."

Anti-lynching legislation should be so worded as to apply to mob violence of all kinds, she told her audience of more than 1,000 persons, and added that she "would like to see it passed as soon as possible."

Mrs. Roosevelt emphasized that she spoke for herself and not the Administration. Considerable significance was attached to her remarks which coincide with announcements that a modified version of the controversial anti-lynch measure soon will be introduced.

Substitute Mob Bill Gets OKEH Of White Women

Atlanta World

Famous Fight By NAACP May Bear Rich Fruit

Atlanta, Ga

1-30-39

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching Saturday had accepted as "a constructive step" a proposed substitute for the Wagner anti-lynching bill.

The group said it had been informed the compromise, bill "has been suggested by Vice President John Garner, with the indorsement of President Roosevelt," and "provides for investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of lynchings and other forms of mob violence and public report of the same Congress."

A resolution approved further declared that "this body is of the opinion that such a measure will be a constructive step in the eradication of the evils of mob violence." Following the approval of the resolution, the group heard Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times, of Louisville, Ky., and Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Atlanta Constitution, discuss the subject.

Ethridge said he favored the Wagner anti-lynching bill on six specific grounds, while McGill said the lynching problem was a "southern job" to be solved by education and the building of public opinion rather than by legislation.

The Louisvillian said he favored enactment of the proposed lynching law which would assess fines against counties in which lynchings occur, first, as a declaration of national policy—an affirmation that Americans, as a people, "do not tolerate a form of barbarism that is only a little more refined than cannibalism."

He also contended that the federal government owes the protection of its laws even of the humblest citizen; that states have failed to meet obligations; that it is not true that invasion of states' rights is threatened by the bill; that it would be an effective way of controlling lynching, and that polls have shown that 72 per cent of the voters of the nation and 63 per cent of southern voters feel the legislation should be passed.

McGill opposes federal legislation, but said he did not see how the southern states "can successfully oppose the anti-lynching bill on grounds of states' rights, while willing to abdicate states' rights on grounds of roads, crop relief, and other forms of federal aid.

The Atlantan also said the south is doing its job through education, the building up of strenger public opinion, and the strengthening of law enforcement bodies, which he believed would be "stronger force than any legislation we might enact." Fear of a new kind of mob violence which would be all the more sinister was expressed by Mr. McGill.

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL ACTION THREATENED

Constitution

Supporter Says He'll Ask for Vote at Special Congress Session.

9-23-39

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—(AP) Although congressional leaders are seeking to limit the special session to neutrality, the prospect arose tonight that the Gavagan anti-lynching bill might be forced up for debate in the house.

A petition to bring the measure to the house floor was completed at the last session and, under the rules, the bill could be called up for a vote next Monday.

Representative Schafer, Republican, Wisconsin, said that if the bill's author, Representative Gavagan, Democrat, New York, did not request a vote on the legislation at the special session, he would do so. Schafer said, however, he had decided not to raise the anti-lynching issue Monday. The bill could be brought up next on the second Monday in October.

Atlanta Ga

Gavagan already has stated he would not take any action in the matter at the special session unless it is unduly prolonged or other extraneous matters are introduced.

Anti-Lynching Petitions to Be Sent to Congress

Daily Worker

12-4-39

According to the plans which are still tentative, thousands of names to petitions for a federal anti-lynching bill will be presented formally in Washington to the House of Representatives and Senators who are sponsoring the bill in the lower and upper houses of Congress, sometimes shortly before the bill is scheduled to come up on the floor of the House for a vote.

6213

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

Mob Bill Forced To Floor Of House: Action Seen By January

Believe Senate Committee Report Will Be Favorable

Daily Worker
7-30-39

WASHINGTON—(SNS)—Signatures of 218 members of the House of Representatives Saturday had forced to the floor of that body the Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

The stormy issue was forced to the House floor by members who signed a petition discharging the rules committee which had the measure pigeon-Holed.

Thousands of signatures of colored constitutents had been secured by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asking representatives to sign a House petition for the action in bringing the bill to the floor.

The last signer of the petition was Representative Van Zandt, Republican of Pennsylvania. His name brought the number of signers to a majority of the House, necessary to force action.

Under rules of the House, the measure must lay before that body until August 14 when it will vote on whether to consider it. If Congress adjourns before that time, Representative Gavagan, Democrat of New York, whose district includes Harlem, said action would be forthcoming during the next session, which begins in January.

In the senate, Wagner and Van Nuys believe that the anti-lynching bill will be reported favorably by the senate judiciary committee before the end of this session. If the house passes it before adjournment, it will then be ready for consideration by the senate when congress convenes in January, 1940. It is generally considered the political significance of 1940.

Gets Legion Confab To Back Lynch Bill

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Aug. (ANP)—After its resolutions committee had rejected the measure proposed by the Col. Charles Young Post of this city asking support for federal anti-lynching legislation, the American legion state convention adopted the resolution Friday following a dramatic appeal by Percival O. Carter, Col Young commander.

This means the state legion is now pledged to support legislation at the next session of congress making lynching a federal offense and will ask the national convention to do likewise when its meets in Chicago during September.

Columbia, S. C. State
August 21, 1939

LYNCHING BILL LOOMS AGAIN.

Even with a presidential election impending, it is now certain the anti-lynching bill will come up for a roll call vote in the lower branch at least of the congressional session beginning next January. The signatures of 218 members—a majority of the whole membership of the house of representatives—have been already affixed to a petition to discharge the judiciary committee from further consideration of the bill and to bring it to the floor for a showdown. During 1937 the bill was defeated in the senate by a filibuster.

Miami, Fla. Herald
August 2, 1939

Anti-Lynching Bill Pops Up

AFTER resting in the musty files of committee for many months the Gavagan anti-lynching bill will now be brought to the floor of the house of representatives for debate.

When the sponsor of a bill finds that his pet measure is pigeon-holed in a committee's archives and he cannot get the committee to act on the measure, his recourse is to secure a sufficient number of names to a petition requiring the committee bring the bill in either with or without recommendation.

This Representative Gavagan has done and the bill is "before the house."

Fortunately, however, there is no prospect that the house will care to take the time to debate the measure during the remainder of this session.

But Mr. Gavagan insists that he will move to have it considered early in the session which begins next January.

And then the obnoxious measure will be debated over and over again, just as it has been nearly every session of the past decade.

The hope of the South is that it will be defeated again as it always has been.

ANTI-LYNCH BILL TO SMOKE GARNER OUT IN JANUARY

News Week Magazine Sees Drive For Federal Law As Embarrassing To Texan

Globe
9-8-39

NEW YORK, Sept. 7—That the continuation of the fight to pass a federal anti-lynching bill when Congress convenes in January, will set the pace to smoke Garner out on this issue, was the view expressed this week by the "Periscope," news analysis section of the **Newsweek** magazine.

The complete text of the statement follows:

"When the perennial anti-lynching fight pops up in Congress next session—as it's sure to do unless war upsets everything—a new backstage motive will be involved. The bill's backers, particularly the ardent liberals, hope to smoke Garnner out on the issue, believing that any answer he gives will offer a further obstacle to his Preisdential candidacy.

"Incidentally, the bill is all but certain to be brought up and passed in the House in early January. Then Wagner will immediately push it in the Senate, precipitating another long filibuster."

This department of the **Newsweek** magazine has become increasingly important to its readers because of the high pereentage of accuracy its reports have contained. Permission to reprint the statement on the anti-lynching bill was granted the N. A. A. C. P. by the magazine.

MORE REPUBLICANS THAN NEW DEALERS OPPOSE LYNCHING

Globe

Roosevelt's House Members Block Passage of Bill Against Mob Violence

9-8-39

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A recent attempt to prove to the Colored people that the Democratic party is now "a friend of the Negro," was the effort of New Dealers of the Northern and Western states in the recent National Congress session to have passed an Anti-lynching Bill. This led, in the closing days of Congress, to a situation which contradicted any affirmative claims of the New Dealers that such a bill would be passed so as to assure a continuation of Negro support at the polls.

Nashville

For four months a petition discharging the House Rules Committee from consideration of the Bill continued to lie on the Speaker's table. The petition had been filed by Representative Gavagan, Democrat of New York. So far as Demo cratic pretensions were concerne the Bill was dead.

It remained for Republicans i Congress to assure consideration c the Bill at the Second Session of th 76th Congress next January. A though the New Deal wing of th Democratic Party had started th petition so as to again mislead th Colored people as to their sincerit and willingness to have such a bi

9-8-39

passed, and also to assure Neg
support in 1940, it turned out th
the House Rules Committee wa
still in command of the situatio
refusing to report it.

House Republicans made the e
fort successful by "signing up" t
the tune of 116 Republicans, a
against 99 Democrats, 2 Progres
sives and 1 Laborite, despite th
fact that the Democratic Hous
membership numbers 259, with
clear majority over all of 90.

And so went awry another ca
culated effort to impress Colore
voters that they could safely loo
to Democratic politicians for su
port and encouragement in conne
tion with this piece of legislatio
which hasbedeviled Congress f
many years.

Lynch Bill Fight will "Smoke Garner Out," Savs Newsweek

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Certain to Pass House

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Rep. Schafer Threatens to Call Up Lynching Bill in Move to Expdnd Extra Session Agenda

Post

9-23-39

Representative Schafer (Republican), of Wisconsin, last night told The Post he intends to see that the highly controversial anti-lynching bill is called up for action on October 9.

If Schafer makes good his threat, he will be blasting the expectation and hope of most House members to limit the special session strictly to the neutrality issue. Even leaders of the anti-lynch forces were placed in an embarrassing position, as they already had indicated they would not bring up their bill in the near future.

However, Schafer asserted that the anti-lynch bill constitutes "a sort of neutrality bill—neutrality for the South." He said he would give Representative Gavagan (Democrat), of New York, author of the measure, an opportunity to call up the bill, but Gavagan has stated he will not do so unless the session is "unduly prolonged" or other non-neutrality legislation is introduced.

Under House rules, Schafer has the right to call up the bill, as he was one of the signatories of the petition discharging the Judiciary Committee from consideration of the measure.

Meanwhile, Administration leaders in the House predicted swift and sure passage of any Senate bill containing repeal of the arms embargo and establishment of a "cash and carry" policy for exports. They maintained that neough Democratic votes had switched since last session to ensure an Administration victory.

They were further heartened by the thought that the bill, as it comes to the House. will be in the form of a conference report, which is expected to be far more in accordance with Administration views than the bill pased by the House last session. Only an hour's debate is permitted on a conference report.

Opponents of the President's program, however, asserted that it was they who had gained in votes. Representative Vorys (Republican), of Ohio, author of an amendment to the House bill forbidding export of arms and munitions to belligerents, said he knew of some changes in favor of embargo.

In contrast, Chairman Sabath of the Rules Committee, said he knew eight Democrats who will vote with the Administration now but who previously had supported the embargo.

One factor that appeared to be of increasing importance in the attitude of House members toward the embargo was their mail.

Mitchell Opposes Anti-Lynch Bill Action Now

Washington, Oct. 13 (ANP)—When Congressman Arthur Mitchell declared Tuesday that he was not in favor of bringing the anti-lynching bill before the present session of congress and would vote against such a procedure, much speculation on the fate of the anti-lynching bill was begun.

Mr. Mitchell, the sole Negro in Congress, declared he would vote against consideration the bill provided no other anti-neutrality legislation was brought up

Leaders of both parties have agreed that no extraneous matters will be permitted to rise in the house at least until the neutrality bill is disposed of, but they would be unable to prevent a vote on consideration of the anti-lynching bill because of privileged status.

As the bill now stands, it has priority claims over all other legisiation and any action at present might tend to jeojardize that position.

Representative Schafer of Wisconsin has been threatening to call the bill this week.

"On the understanding that failure to consider the measure now would impair its chances in January," Mitchell said, "I would vote against brining it up at this time."

There has been a great deal of talk on the possibility of bringing the anti-lynching bill before this sesson inasmuch as the bill pill be the first to be considered when Congress convenes in its regular session in January. How ever any consideration of the bill at this session will not be in line with the strategy of the administration which hopes to confine all debates to neutrality.

Anti-Lynching Measure Up in House Jan. 8

Daily Worker

Campaign on Congress Urges to Insure Passage

11-29-39

The Gavagan-Fish anti-lynching bill (H.R.-801), which is on the top of the Congress calendar, will be called up in the House of Representatives, Monday, January 8, 1940 according to an announcement made here yesterday by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The announcement followed a conference held here in Representative Joseph Gavagan's office Tuesday, November 21. Those present at the conference included: Rep. Gavagan (D. of N. Y.), who has piloted the measure through several Congressional battles; Rep. Hamilton Fish; Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.; Arthur B. Spingarn, chief of the N.A.A.C.P.'s national legal committee; and Thurgood Marshall, special legal counsel for the association.

The N. A. A. C. P. has written to each of the 218 Congressmen who signed the discharge petition which forced the bill out of committee and indirectly made possible its present preferred position on the House calendar, urging them to be in Washington on January 8 and on the floor of the House, and also to be present on each day thereafter to prevent opponents from attempting to kill the bill. A similar request was sent to all Congressmen who come from states where Negro citizens have the right to vote, but did not sign the discharge petition.

.The bill is being brought up on January 8, because under the rules of the House of Representatives the second and fourth Mondays of the month are the legislative days on which action on discharge petitions may be taken. January 8 is the second Monday of the month.

If the supporters of the anti-lynching bill are not present in sufficient force on January 8, the N.A.A.C.P. said, the opponents of the bill may muster sufficient strength to vote against it.

6214

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

87,000 Sign Petitions For Antilynching Bill

Daily World
3-30-39

NEW YORK—(SNS)—More than 87,000 signatures to petitions urging passage of a federal anti-lynching bill, have been received at the headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to date, officials said today.

Representative Caroline O'Day, Congresswoman at large for New York, issued a statement today saying that she had received numerous letters urging her to sign the Gavagan petition. Miss O'Day signed the petition several weeks ago.

Gavagan Is Confident Required Quota Of 218 Congressmen Will Sign

Necessary Signatures Will Automatically Send Lynch Bill to House for Vote

NEW YORK—(SNS)—Seventy-six Congressmen have signed the Gavagan discharged petition to bring the New York representative's anti-lynching bill (H. R. 801) to the floor of the House for a vote, officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced here Monday.

Daily World

Representative Joseph Gavagan (D. N. Y.) author of the bill who led the fight in the House in the spring of 1937 when his anti-lynching bill was finally passed, said he felt confident that the full quota of 218 signatures, necessary to bring the bill to the floor, would be forthcoming within a very short period.

The NAACP urged individuals and organizations to send telegrams and cards to their senators urging them to vote for limitation of debate ((cloture) when the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper bill (S-845) companion measure to the Gavagan bill comes up for a vote in the Senate. A vote for cloture will help to prevent a filibuster, which southern senators have vowed they will bring to bear again in order to kill the bill in the Senate by preventing its coming to a vote on the floor.

At the same time the Association announced that more than 19,000 petitions calling for support of a federal anti-lynching bill, have been sent out and are being distributed by individuals and organizations all over the country. Already returns on these petitions are being received at the national office of the organization, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York. Officials said they want to have 1,000,000 names signed to these petitions by May 15. Each petition has space for twenty-five signatures.

Gavagan's Petition Believed Signed By 43 Solons

NAACP Reveals This Action Is Necessary to Remove Bill From Hands of Rules Committee

NEW YORK—(SNS)—Forty-three congressmen are believed to have signed Representative Joseph Gavagan's discharge petition, to have his Anti-Lynching Bill (H. R. 801) taken out of the hands of the Rules Committee and brought before the House for a vote, NAACP officials announced here today.

The New York Representative's own name appears first on the petition. Representative Arthur W. Mitchell (D. Ill) is reported to have been the second person to sign. Representative Raymond McKeough (D. Ill.) is the third signature and Representative Martin Kennedy (D. N.Y.) fourth.

Gavagan (D. N. Y.) laid the petition on the Speaker's desk Wednesday, March 29. It will be necessary for 218 Congressmen to sign the petition before it can be acted upon, and subsequently brought to the floor of the House.

The Association has sent letters to 326 members of the House urging them to sign the petition immediately. Officials also urged citizens and organizations throughout the country to send postcards and telegrams to their Congressmen, urging them to sign the petition.

ACTED BY REQUEST

4-7-39

Gavagan said he acted after receiving "requests from all over the country," urging him to push for immediate action by the House on his bill.

Atlanta

A companion measure to the Gavagan bill is (S-845), which has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, who is co-sponsor of the bill with Senators Arthur Capper (R. Kans.) and Frederick Van Nuys (D. Ind.) ~~Walter White, executive sec~~retary of the NAACP urged organizations and individuals to get behind their Senators now urging them to vote for limitation of debate (cloture) in order to prevent a filibuster in the Senate when the bill comes up for debate there.

PETITIONS OUT

The Association has begun distribution of petitions, calling for support of federal Anti-Lynching legislation, among branches of the organization and cooperating organizations throughout the country. Because more than 1,000,000 names are desired by May 15, officials have urged that persons handling these petitions get them signed as quickly as possible before that date.

At their convention in Detroit Thursday, March 30, the CIO, supported convention of the United Automobile Workers, passed a resolution endorsing passage of a federal Anti-Lynching Bill.

LYNCH BILL IN NEED OF 117 SIGNATURES

Only 101 Congressmen Have Signed Petition For Action

Defender
6-10-39

NEW YORK, June 9—A total of 101 Representatives have signed the Gavagan discharge petition to have the New York Congressman's anti-lynching bill (H.R. 801), which is supported by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, brought to the floor of the House for a vote, according to an announcement made by the association here Friday.

In order to have the bill thus taken out of the hands of the Judiciary committee, where it now reposes, 218 congressmen must sign the petition.

At the same time the association announced that Walter White, executive secretary of the organization, would confer with Joseph Martin Jr., Republican minority leader of the House, in Washington early next week to discuss the Fish discharge petition, which has 43 signatures.

Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican of New York, seeks to have his own anti-lynching bill brought to the floor for a vote.

90,000 Signatures Obtained

The announcement also set forth that 90,000 signatures to petitions urging passage of a federal anti-lynching bill have been received at the N. A. A. C. P.'s New York headquarters to date. The association is seeking 1,000,000 signatures.

ENROUTE FOR CAPITAL WITH LYNCH PETITION

Defender

New York Delegation To Present Demand For Bill's Passage

6-17-39

NEW YORK, June 16—A delegation bearing petitions holding thousands of signatures in support of the Gavagan-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill left this city for Washington this week to present the petitions to Congress.

The delegation, sent by the Communist Party of New York, included Theodore Bassett, educational director of the Harlem Division of the Communist party; Paul Crosbie, white, Queens County chairman of the Communist party; Charlotte Rucker, Harlem Division, and Milton Mann, white, Manhattan county of the Communist party.

The anti-lynching bill, introduced early in the present session of Congress, is still being held up by the House Judiciary committee. A total of 101 Representatives have signed a discharge petition. Signatures of 117 more Congressmen are needed to take the bill out of committee and bring it to the floor to be voted on.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People recently announced that 90,000 signatures to petitions urging passage of the bill have been received at its New York headquarters. The association is seeking 1,000,000 signatures

N.A.A.C.P. leaders urged citizens to write their Congressmen urging them to sign the Gavagan discharge petition. They also urged organizations and individuals to write their senators calling upon them to vote for cloture (limitation of debate) when the bill comes up on the Senate floor for debate.

Rain Stills Search For Girl's Assailant

GREENSBORO, ALA., June 16.—(AP)—Rain made bloodhounds useless tonight as officers searched for the negro assailant of an 18-year-old white girl.

Advertiser

State and county police, who sought to track the negro with dogs, said heavy rains at nightfall apparently had obliterated the trail.

A Greensboro physician who examined the girl reported evidence she had been molested.

Sheriff J. G. Kirby said the girl told him she was dragged into underbrush at the Roadside a short distance from her home, and assaulted after being knocked unconscious. She did not recognize her assailant, the sheriff quoted, and gave only a meager description.

6-17-39

Kirby reported tension among residents of the district after reports of the attack, fourth in Greene County during the past year.

Ten State highway patrolmen armed with riot and gas guns were sent here under Capt. N. H. Kimbrough at Kirby's request. The sheriff also swore in additional deputies.

Asked if violence was threatened, Kirby said: "We don't know what might happen. We're taking every precaution."

Montgomery

The rainfall which washed away the fugitive's trail also dispersed a crowd of more than 200 residents of the district, who had gathered at the rural home of the girl victim.

Ala

LYNCH BILL IN NEED OF 117 SIGNATURES

Defender

Only 101 Congressmen Have Signed Petition For Action

6-10-39

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94,000 Sign Anti-Lynch Petitions; Time Extended

Age

6-17-39

Averaging five thouasnd a week, signatures to petitions calling for passage of the Gavagan federal anti-lynching bill reached the 94,000 mark, officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reported Saturday.

New York

The Association is seeking 1,000,000 of these signatures. The limit has been extended indefinitely it was said, in order to permit a full cross-section of the entire country to express support of the bill.

Brooklyn Rally Tonight to Urge Anti-Lynch Bill

Increased pressure on Congress to pass the Federal Anti-Lynch Bill will be given at a meeting tonight at the YMCA at 405 Carlton St., Brooklyn, sponsored by the National Negro Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of Kings County.

The rally, to begin at 8:00 P. M., will hear Benjamin Butler, Negro, candidate for City Council in 1937; Owen Middleton, artist; Gertrude Alcion MacCormick, administrative secretary of the Council Against Intolerance; the Reverend Allison Smith, Methodist minister and secretary of the Religious Committee of the American League for Peace and Democracy and Malcolm G. Martin, chairman of the National Negro Congress of Kings County, who will also act as chairman of the meeting.

Torture Lynching Spurs House Action On Federal Anti-Lynching Bill

Plaindealer 6-23-39

NEW YORK—The torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and Baptist church deacon in Canton, Miss., has spurred action in Congress to secure passage of the Gavagan federal anti-lynching bill.

An effort to corrall the Republican vote in the House in support of the Gavagan bill, will be undertaken by Republican minority leader, Joseph Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced.

Kansas City Kansas

The announcement followed a conference between Martin and Walter White, executive secretary of the association in Washington, Friday, June 9.

It is understood that Rep. Martin will lead the fight among the Republicans to push for action on the Gavagan bill at this session of Congress. To date Rep. Gavagan has received 118 signatures to his petition on the Speaker's desk, to bring his bill out of committee and on to the floor for a vote. A total f 213 signatures is required before this can be done. Representative Hamilton Fish also has a petition on the anti-lynching bill to the floor. Fish has forty-three signatures to his petition.

Charlotte, N. C., Star of Zion
July 27, 1939

ONLY 27 SIGNATURES NEEDED TO GET ACTION ON ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Washington, D.C., July 21.—A total of 191 congressman have signed a petition to bring the Gavagan anti-lynching bill to the floor of the House, it was announced here today. Only 27 signatures, or a total of 218, are necessary to bring the bill out of committee to the floor of the House.

Since Congress seems determined to adjourn on or before August 1, this means that if the 218 signatures are secured in the next few days, the anti-lynching bill will be among the first items taken up by the House in the next session of Congress, whether it be a special session this fall or the regular session in January.

The rules of the House require that after a petition has received 218 signatures, it must lie on the table for seven legislative days before action can be taken. This requirement, in view of the haste to adjourn, would mean probably that the bill would go over and become one of the first items on the new session's calendar.

Representative Joseph Gavagan, of New York, has been very busy pushing his measure. He has been assisted by Congressman Raymond McKeogh, of Illinois, Arthur Mitchell, of Illinois, and Hamilton Fish, of New York.

Some Republicans are cooperating in the movement to sign the petition and Minority Leader Joseph Martin is lending his influence to secure signatures to the petition. A list of 102 Republicans who, according to the best information, have not yet signed the petition, has been furnished to Congressman Martin and he has pledged to get them to sign.

In view of the welter of controversial legislation in the Congress this winter and spring and of the determined fights being made on administration measures, proponents of the anti-lynching bill are favorably impressed with its progress thus far. Once action is secured in the House, consideration in the Senate can be speeded. The Senate measure being handled by Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, Frederick Van Nuys, of Indiana, and Arthur Capper, of Kansas.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6215

4 MORE ANTI-LYNCH BILLS INTRODUCED

1-21-39

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19—Anti-lynching bills were introduced in the House in the first week by Representatives Carl E. Mapes, Republican, of Michigan; D. Lane Powers, Republican, of New Jersey; William E. Hess, of Ohio, and Jesse P. Wolcott, Republican, of Michigan.

NEW LYNCH BILL BEFORE SENATE, HOUSE

Bee
1-22-39

Lynchings In 1938 Spur Fight

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—Announcement at a meeting of the N. A. A. C. P. here last week by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, that Representative Joseph Gavagan introduced the association-sponsored anti-lynch bill in the House this week. The bill was introduced in the Senate on Thursday, Jan. 5, he said, by Senator Wagner, whose co-sponsors are Senator Frederick Van Nuys, (D) of Indiana; and Senator Arthur Capper, (R), of Kansas.

A resolve to fight vigorously for enactment of an anti-lynching bill during this session of Congress, was spurred by the utter bestiality of the seven lynchings in 1938, Mr. White said.

Outline Program

The rest of the association's legislative program for 1939, as outlined at the meeting included:

Amendments to the Social Security Act to include domestic and agricultural workers; extension of the Wages and Hours bill to benefit casual and other workers; a possible amendment to the Wagner Act to prohibit unions that discriminate against Negro workers from enjoying the right of collective bargaining; the inclusion of clauses in the Federal Education Bill insuring equal per capita expenditures of funds without regard to race, creed or color; and a rider to the Interior epartment's Appropriation Bill which would insure equal per capita expenditure of funds on all education projects of the department.

The University of Missouri decision handed down by the U. S. supreme court climaxed the association's three-year education campaign, made possible by the Garland fund. This fund is no longer available to the organization, it was pointed out at the meeting.

Continue Equal Pay Fight

A continuation of the campaign to equalize teachers salaries in southern and border states during 1939 was vouchsafed by Thurgood Marshall, assistant special counsel of the organization.

Mr. Marshall said the N. A. A. C. P. now has before the U. S. supreme court the Wagoner County, Oklahoma, case, which involves the denial of the right to register to vote to Negro citizens in Oklahoma.

The Department of Justice is also expected to act in the case involving Dr. George F. Porter, ~~of Dallas, Texas,~~ who was ejected from the courthouse in that city last September when he insisted on exercising his right of serving as a juror after he had been called.

NAACP HAILS FIRST LADY'S STAND ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Bee 1-22-39

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—The statement of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt that she favored speedy enactment of a federal anti-lynching bill was hailed here this week by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mrs. Roosevelt has been known to be against lynching, but until her speech before the National Conference on Negro Youth in Washington January 12, she had made no announcement of her belief in a federal anti-lynching law.

(The Gavagan federal anti-lynching bill has been introduced in the House along with several other similar bills, and the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper bill has been introduced in the Senate.)

N. A. A. C. P. officials cited Mrs. Roosevelt's assertion that a remedy for the Negro problem "lies in better organization and in organiaztions which know no color line." The N. A. A. C. P. has been interracial since it was founded thirty years ago and has been seeking better organization among Negroes ever since it was started.

Called "Agitator"

For many years the N. A. A. C. P. has been condemned in some circles because it has been called "an agitator" which protested and protested again on the plight of the Negro minority. The First Lady in her January 12 talk said the Negro must use patience and good judgment in fighting for his rights, but added:

"I think it is harmful everywhere for minorities to remain silent when minorities do not enjoy all the rights of a democracy."

Mrs. Roosevelt emphasized that she was speaking as an indivdual and not for the Administration. Her straightforward endorsement of a federal anti-lynching bill recalled her sharp exchange of remarks last November in Birmingham, Ala., with Congressman Luther Patrick of that state over his opposition to a federal anti-lynching law. Some observers are inclined to believe that Mrs. Roosevelt has been brought to her present state of mind not so much by argument from Negroes as by the actions of certain types of southern white people themselves.

Mrs. Roosevelt Says She Favors Passage Of Anti-Lynch Bill

Age
1-21-39

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President, went on record in favor of passage of a federal anti-lynching bill "as soon as possible" in response to a question asked Thursday at the Second National Conference on Problem of Negro and Negro Youth.

Asked if she would say what she thought of an anti-lynching bill, Mrs. Roosevelt said "Yes, I'll answer that on the clear understanding that I am speaking for myself, as an individual, and in no other sense."

Continuing she declared:

"If only as a gesture it would be a step in the right direction. I doubt very much if that law would do away with lynching, but I would like to see it passed because it would put us on record against something we all should be against. I think it should be so worded as to apply to mob violence in all parts of the country. Even if it does not succeed at once in doing away with all the evils we would like to see done away with, I think it would be a good thing."

Mrs. Roosevelt spent an hour at the conference answering various questions which delegates asked and at the end was given a rising vote of thanks for her "graciousness and moral courage."

New Yorkers Present

Among the New York delegates present at the conference were Mrs. Bessye J. Bearden, Mrs. Carita Roane, Rev. William Lloyd Imes, Lester Granger, Robert J. Elzy, Walter White, Mrs. Fred Norman, Mrs. Addie Dickerson, Miss Frances Williams, Lemuel L. Foster and Thyra Edwards.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Age

WHILE THERE WAS much to applaud in the President's message to Congress last Wednesday, Negro citizens were again disappointed at his failure to mention the need for this country to set its own house in order by wiping out lynching and other forms of persecution of the darker races at home.

Half the message was given over to a discussion of foreign affairs and the need for strengthening our defenses against the "dictator" nations. In the other part of the address, the President advocated some form of reorganization of the federal government, help for the railroads and the need for continuing the federal relief program of large scale spending through the WPA and other agencies. No mention whatever was made of the need for a federal anti-lynching bill to put down the crime of lynching as a part of his campaign of liberalism, and a return to democratic principles.

So far as we know the President has never expressed himself in favor of this bill, and we believe that it is his attitude of indifference more than that of any other person that has given aid and comfort to the filibustering Southern legislators who are blocking its passage.

Mr. Roosevelt has the power to push through Congress almost any bill that he favors, and could by taking a firm stand in favor of the Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching bill assure its passage. We therefore think that part of the campaign conducted by the N. A. A. C. P. and other lobbyists for this bill's passage, should be directed toward "smoking the President out", and having him publicly express his views on this legislation. He's straddled the fence long enough. Now let him by word and deed show that he is either for or against this legislation.

F. D. R. FAVORS COMPROMISE IN ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Age-Herald

New Proposal Fails To Find Favor Among Southern Senators

1-23-39

Birmingham, Ala.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—(AP)—A compromise anti-lynching proposal designed to head off prolonged Congressional controversy over the subject, was understood Sunday to have the tacit approval of President Roosevelt.

Informed persons said Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to prevent a repetition of the Senate filibuster of last year which not only killed anti-lynching legislation for the session but also kept Senate business at a virtual standstill for six years.

The compromise, reported to have originated with Vive President Garner, would provide for an investigation of all lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a public report to Congress of the findings.

Connally Against Compromise

There were indications, however, that the compromise might not be acceptable to the Southern senators who talked the anti-lynching measure to death last year. Senator Connally (D., Tex.), a leader of the group, said he could not approve it.

The Texan said he was not averse to investigation by the F. B. I., but said he viewed the compromise as an "entering wedge" for later more stringent legislation.

The bitterly fought Wagner-Van Nuys bill of last session would have subjected state officers to Federal prosecution for laxity in not preventing lynchings and would have permitted relatives of victims to sue the counties in which lynchings took place.

A slightly revised measure was introduced this session by Senators Wagner (D., N. Y.), Van Nuys (D., Ind.) and Capper (R., Kan.). Connally told the Senate the Southerners were prepared to discuss it just as fully as they did last year's bill.

The compromise proposal would carry no provisions for prosecution of dilatory state officials nor would it permit suits against the counties.

Bill Not To Be Abandoned

Disclaiming any knowledge of the proposal, Senator Van Nuys said he was not disposed to abandon the bill already introduced.

Meanwhile, Senator Borah (R. Idaho), who opposed the bill last year on grounds that it was unconstitutional, said he believed there was no need for such legislation "because the South is magnificently settling the question itself."

"When you give the federal government power to prosecute state officers and fine them for not doing their duty," Borah declared "that is the end of state government."

FIRST LADY FAVORS ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Post

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. — Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was on record today in favor of enactment of a federal anti-lynching law which would apply to all forms of mob violence.

1-14-39

She told a meeting of the National Congress on Negro Youth that she would like to see such a measure passed "as soon as possible."

"I doubt very much if a law will actually stop lynching," she said, "but I would like to see it passed because it puts us as a whole, against something which we should all be against." The legislation should be worded so as to cover all forms of mass violence, she added.

Birmingham, Ala.

A FIGHT LOOMS IN CONGRESS

Again an anti-lynch bill has been introduced in both the House and the Senate of the United States, and again a fight to prevent the passage of such legislation looms in both the House and the Senate. As in the seventy-fifth Congress, the strong opposition to making lynching a federal offense comes from the representatives in Congress from the South.

Just why these people are putting up such a strong fight to hold on to lynching is pretty hard for us to see or understand. They themselves, claim that they are opposed to it because it smacks at law and order and gives a "black eye" to any community or state in which it takes place. It also leaves a blot upon the fair escutcheon of that document we call the Constitution of the United States. Now, therefore, we find ourselves face to face with the question: why hold on to this uncivilized and undemocratic practice? Why would the representatives in Congress from these southern states who are supposed to represent intelligence in their community make jackasses out of themselves before the highest law-making body in the land by opposing such an important matter?

Argus

2-3-39

St. Louis, Mo.

It is our claim and contention that lynching in any state has its moral affect upon all of the people of the nation because, as most people know, many of the lynchings have been celebrated with a public holiday for the benefit of the populace in these communities, and at times have been attended by more than ten thousand people.........just think of it.........ten thousand so-called civilized people publicly witnessing a violation of the law of the state and of the nation. And among those making up this number have been children of tender years and babies in the arms of their mothers.

It would not be so bad if these people who have become innoculated with such a spirit could be segregated where they could not spread their contamination to other sections of the country. Therefore, with ten thousand murderers, or potential murderers, at large in the United States, one can readily see how the nation will be affected in the next ten years if the federal government does not take a hand in this matter.

If it is necessary for the statesmen from the South to oppose an anti-lynching bill in order to gain favor and the votes of their constituents, then it is time to pray for a more intelligent citizenry. If, on the other hand, such statesmen are acting on their own intelligence, then there should be a change in the calibre of representatives coming from this section of the country.

ARDENT ANTI-LYNCHING BILL AIDE DIES

Cite Work on the Bill

NEW YORK, Feb. 2. — The death of Edward P. Costigan, former United States Senator from Colorado, on January 17 in Denver, recalled to thousands of supporters of federal anti-lynching legislation the devoted and unselfish service of Senator Costigan in support of an anti-lynching bill.

Bee

2-5-39

In 1933 a series of shocking and brutal lynchings with both white and colored victims shocked the country and Senator Costigan promptly stepped forward and offered to sponsor together with Senator Robert F. Wagner, the now famous Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill.

Chicago, Ill.

NAACP Sends Telegram

Mr. Costigan was never in very strong health and on many occasions, although not physically fit, he attended hearings, consulted with supporters and lobbyists, and was always present on the floor to fight for his measure. One of the most memorable speeches in support of this legislation was delivered in the Broadway Tabernacle church, New York City, January 6, 1935, by Senator Costigan. The title of the speech was "Open and Boastful Anarchy."

A telegram of sympathy reviewing the senator's devoted service to liberal and humanitarian causes was sent to Denver by Walter White, secretary of the NAACP..

Anti-Lynch Bill Needs 50 Signers

Defender

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 21.—The Gavagan petition to call the anti-lynching bill out of committee to the floor for a vote needs only fifty more signatures, it was announced here this week.

7-22-39

Chicago, Ill.

There are now 168 signers, with 218 needsd. As soon as the petition is signed the federal anti-lynching bill can be called up for a vote. Speed is necessary as Congress plans to adjourn about the last of July.

Voters are urged to write their Congressmen urging them to sign if they have not already done so.

Christian Committee Favors Anti-Lynch Bill

NEW YORK, July 21.—With replies coming in at a slow but steady pace, a number of representatives and senators have told the Volunteer Christian Committee to Boycott Nazi Germany that they are in full accord with that organization's efforts to push for passage of a federal anti-lynching bill.

Defender

7-22-39

The committee, which is headed by Dr. William Jay Schieffelin, sent a letter signed by more than 50 prominent heads of religious, civic, education, and labor organizations to all congressmen and senators, appealing to them to pass the federal anti-lynching bill.

Chicago, Ill.

LYNCHINGS-1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6216

Dawson, Ga., News
February 23, 1939

NEW ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURE PROPOSED

NEW BILL DIFFERS FROM ACT KILLED AT LAST SESSION OF THE CONGRESS.

An anti-lynching bill similar to the Wagner-Nuys measure which was killed at the last session of congress has been introduced in the senate by W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey.

Barbour's bill differed from the Wagner-Van Nuys proposal in two respects. It defined a "mob" as "two or more persons" intent on lynching instead of "three or more persons." It also would make penalties of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill applicable only in case of "wilful neglect" on the part of peace officers in taking precautions to prevent mob violence.

The bill described its purpose as: "To enforce the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and to assure, under said amendment, equal protection and due process of law to all persons, irrespective of color, in all federal jurisdictions."

Barbour said he believd the change made in his proposal from the Wagner-and Nuys measure "removes the last reasonable objection to prompt consideration and passage of anti-lynching legislation."

"My bill takes nothing from the states and does not attempt to supersede or override state or local governments which make an honest effort to enforce laws relating to lynching," he said in a statement.

Washington, D. C. Post
March 3, 1939

Taft Voices Anti-Lynch Bill Plea

Senator, at Howard Charter Day Dinner, Doubts WPA Benefits Will Be Lasting

Senator Robert A. Taft (Republican), of Ohio, speaking last night at the fifteenth annual charter day dinner, at Howard University, on a national radio hookup to alumni everywhere, expressed himself as in favor of an anti-lynching bill, opposed to exclusion of Marian Anderson from appearance in concert here because of her race, and doubtful of lasting beneficial effects of the Works Progress Administration, especially as far as colored citizens are concerned.

"Progress of the colored race in America," he said, "has been due to the inherent qualities which this race possesses. The foundation of that progress is found in the Constitution of the United States. It is my belief that we need, at this time, a Federal anti-lynching bill, to protect those Federal constitutional rights which colored citizens have in theory but, in some places, not in fact."

Opposes Anderson Ban

Reference to the Marian Anderson matter was brief and pointed. "Colored citizens," the Senator said, "will always have to fight against certain narrow prejudices such as those which ~~have~~ excluded Marian Anderson from appearance in the Nation's Capital."

The speaker, however, after tracing the progress of the colored race in America since the Civil War, paying tribute to Gen. O. O. Howard, founder of the university which bears his name, and the contributions of graduates of the university to the arts and sciences and in the professional field, spoke more at length on the problem of unemployment by which, he said, these graduates now are peculiarly affected.

"Of the millions of unemployed," he said, "there is an undue proportion of colored people everywhere. The WPA is not a substitute for real jobs and does not provide an economic program for the future. It is leading colored people into economic serfdom. The whole movement of regimentation is a threat, more against the colored race than against an other segment of the population, for the colored men will be regimented as a minority by an unfavorable majority.

"The Government is a negative and defensive thing. Colored people must look to their own efforts, assisted, not controlled, by the Government. There exists for them an economic discrimination which we must do our utmost to reduce. Only by your own efforts in the economic field can you build economic security for the future, and continue to make progress as you have in the past."

Tribute Paid Founders

Tribute was paid by Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, university president, to the 17 founders of the institution, who built an institution "to admit emancipated slaves and their children, along with their own children, to the highest possible training that might be afforded.

The dinner, under auspices of the classes of 1889, 1899, 1909, 1919, 1929 and 1939, represented on the program by Nelson E. Weatherless, John C. Payne, Mrs. Jimmie B. Middleton, Emory B. Smith, Miss Effie Simmons and Mrs. Mary R. Parker, was in charge of a committee headed by Mrs. Jennie Mustapha Tate, of the class of 1919. A plan of alumni contribution was presented by Dr. William M. Cobb. Musical numbers were furnished by the men's glee club, under direction of Roy W. Tibbs.

Gavagan In Early Move For Action

White Declares Bill Should Be Enacted Speedily

WASHINGTON — (SNS) —Representative Joseph A. Gavagan has decided to start action toward the enactment of his federal anti-lynching bill in the House without waiting for possible action in the Senate.

Daily World

The first task is to get the bill out of the hands of the House Judiciary Committee of which Congressman Hatton W. Sumners of Texas is chairman. A resolution already has been filed with the rules committee to pave the way for a discharge petition. The discharge petition, which requires 218 signatures, will, if signed by that number, bring the bill out of committee to the floor. In a certain number of days after the last signature is secured the bill automatically comes to the floor.

3-29-39
Atlanta
Ga

BEGIN WORK AT ONCE

Congressman Gavagan expects to begin work at once on securing signatures to the petition. It will be placed on the Speaker's desk and members will be invited to sign. It is expected that members from northern, western, and eastern states will sign the petition in order to bring the question to a vote. Voters in these states and organizations supporting the anti-lynching bill are urged to write their representatives urging them to sign the discharge petition.

"This fresh attempt to pass a federal anti-lynching bill comes at a time when our country has expressed its indignation over the inhuman treatment of other racial groups in foreign countries, said a statement by Walter White, NAACP secretary. "This bill is merely carrying out the high democratic principles which we have been broadcasting to the world. It will protect the civil rights of citizens of our own country and save them from the terror and brutality of mob law. The bill should be enacted speedily to prove to the world that America is not a hypocrite on the question of humanity."

Nashville Ga., Herald
March 30, 1939

New Anti-Lynching Measure Proposed

An anti-lynching bill similar to the Wagner-Nuys measure which was killed at the last session of congress, has been introduced in the senate by W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey.

Barbour's bill differed from the Wagner-Van Nuys proposal in two respects. It defined a "mob" as "two or more persons" intent on lynching instead of "three or more persons." It also would make penalties of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill applicable only in case of "wilful neglect" on the part of peace officers in taking precautions to prevent mob violence.

Urges Voters To Fight For Lynching Bill

Tribune
4-20-39
Philadelphia
Pa.

Must Bring Pressure Upon Congressmen, Says NAACP

NEW YORK, April 14.—Pointing out that 82 Representatives, less than 100 of the 218 required, have signed the Gavagan petition to bring the New York Congressman's anti-lynching bill to the floor of the House for a vote, Walter White appealed to the nation's citizenry today to rush telegrams and letters to their congressmen to sign the petition at once.

The Secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. also urged organizations and individuals to write their senators now, urging them to vote for limitation of debate (cloture) when the bill comes up for consideration in the Senate.

Determined to push the drive to get 1,000,000 signatures supporting the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill before May 15, the N. A. A. C. P. has begun distribution of its second printing of petitions. To date 22,000 petitions have been distributed to national, civic, religious, labor, and political organizations throughout the country.

FLORIDA'S SENATORS WERE WRONG

Courier
4-15-39
Pittsburgh
Pa.

During the last Senatorial filibuster against the federal anti-lynching bill, Florida's U. S. Senators Pepper and Andrews declared with superb confidence that there was no need of such legislation because their states could "take care of the problem of lynching."

On April 1 a white man, Miles W. Brown, was lynched at Panama City, after a jury had convicted him of murder. He would have been punished in due course by the law, but the Florida mob was in too much of a hurry, as mobs usually are.

So far neither the Governor nor anybody else in Florida has sought to punish the lynchers, not even to punish the sheriff who permitted the victim to be snatched from his cell and lynched.

Evidently Senators Pepper and Andrews were all wrong about the ability or willingness of Florida to "take care of the problem of lynching," unless "taking care of the problem" means to permit it to continue.

MURPHY PROMISES ENFORCEMENT OF 14th AMENDMENT

Courier 4-8-39

New Attorney General Denounces Lynch Mobs, Secret Vigilantes and "Guerilla" Organizations.

Pittsburgh Pa.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6.—Attorney General Frank Murphy's new bureau of civil liberties has been instructed to investigate every lynching from this date on, filing detailed reports, naming names and places, turning the same over to Congress for "consideration."

He urged translation of civil liberty into a living reality and the application of the democratic ideal in every part of the national life . . . social, political and economic . . . last Monday night.

DENOUNCES LYNCH MOBS, VIGILANTE

Speaking over the National Broadcasting Company network, he denounced lynch mobs and secret vigilante and "guerilla" organizations.

After defining the Bill of Rights in the Federal Constitution as a prohibition on the Federal Government, he said:

"Since the Federal Constitution was adopted, however, another amendment . . . the Fourteenth . . . has been added, which provides that no State shall make any law abridging the privileges and immunities of United States citizens, or deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process, or deny to him the equal protection of the laws.

"Under this amendment it has been held that a citizen may invoke the aid of the Federal courts when he is denied full protection by the courts of his state . . ."

"We propose to protect civil liberties for the business man and the laborer alike, for the Jew and Gentile, and the people of all racial extractions in our midst.

"We believe that it must be done consistently and with a fine impartiality . . . otherwise it cannot be truly democratic.

In this connection he told of the organization of a separate unit on civil rights in the criminal division of the Department of Justice.

"One of the first duties of this unit," he said, "has been to consider and determine just where the Federal Government can act, and to define the limits of its jurisdiction. Within those limits it will exercise its second duty of ordering investigation and prosecution for violations of rights which the United States Government is charged with protecting."

Mr. Murphy asserted that the courts cannot review every denial of civil liberty. Tolerance, he stated, cannot be enforced by law. Public opinion, he declared, is the great protector of civil liberty . . . the final source of its enforcement.

"What injunction of law can undo the murder of the mob that acts by no other authority than its passions?" he asked. "The victim, lynched and lying dead, has no appeal. It is only the spirit of restraint and tolerance deeply abiding in all our people that can prevent this type of tresspass.

"And so it is with the secret vigilante and the guerrilla organizations that carry conviction by fear and persuasion by tar and feathers. The courts can provide a remedy for their lawlessness, but for its complete prevention there is only one place to look, and that is to an overwhelming public determination that it must not happen here."

Mr. Murphy is a director of the N. A. A. C. P.

Catholic Magazine's Credo Includes Justice For The Negro

Star of Zion

New York—(C)—"America," the national Catholic weekly magazine, in a two-page editorial entitled, "Our Editorial Credo," in its April 15 issue lists points 6 and 7 under "Human Rights" as follows:

4-20-39

"Full and unqualified justice is owing to the Negro, the foreigner, the Jew, the Protestant, the Catholic, the non-believer. The fact that the sacred cause of human rights is misused by discontented or interested elements for the sake of anti-social and anti-religious agitation does not alter the rights in the case.

Charlotte
N.C.

"The Federal anti-lynching Bill should be enacted as a necessary restrictive measure, not as a cure for a social evil with which only education and religion can adequately cope."

CONGRESS GETS LYNCH BILL WITH "TEETH"

Bee

[illegible]

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 20 (ANP)—Because of his desire to have an anti-lynching law "with teeth in it," Representative Clarence J. McLeod (Rep. Mich.) last Wednesday introduced his measure, H. R. 5588, in the House of Representatives. Commenting on his interest in such legislation and his reaction to past bills, Congressman McLeod said:

4-22-39

"After a thorough study of the lynching question and a careful analysis of the various types of legislation which have been proposed in the past years to prevent lynching, I introduced House Resolution 5588. This bill contains features that none of the others so far presented have contained, such as a section providing for the payment of $10,000 to the deceased party's heirs by any governmental subdivision that failed to take necessary measures to prevent lynching.

"If we are to have an effective act we must incorporate therein every possible section that will put fear in the hearts of lynchers and State and County officers who do nothing to prevent lynching. This bill, H. R. 5588, I believe, has sufficient "teeth" to make it effective. The day is not far off when Congress will realize its duty and take steps to eradicate this vicious crime."

Mr. McLeod has long been one of the real friends of colored people. Several years ago when Congressmen Oscar DePriest of Illinois, was waging the fight in the house of representatives to permit his colored constituents to dine in the Capitol restaurants at Washington, Mr. McLeod stood by him and joined him in his fight. He gave to Congressman DePriest his own time on the floor of the House to debate this question.

LYNCHINGS-1939

LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6217

Anti-Lynch Bill In Revised Form

Daily World
1-4-39
Atlanta, Ga.

A revised anti-lynching bill, on of the ma[illegible] crusading measure ready or already cast into the Congressional hopper Tuesday, loomed as a possible [illegible] for split party lines and sectional controversies.

The new lynch measure, sponsored by Senator Wagner and Representative Gavagan, New York Democrats, provides for lynching trials in federal courts. It was revised after a conference of inter-

A somewhat similar anti-lynching measure blocked congressional motion for a record period in the last session.

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o Renew Fight or Lynch Bill

Afro-American
1-7-39
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

Senator Van Nuys, (Dem., Ind.), said he would again collaborate with Senator Wagner (Dem., N.Y.), in pushing a Federal anti-lynching bill in the forthcoming Congress.

The Hoosier solon said he would re-introduce the bill despite defiance of Southern opposition.

The bill reportedly has the backing of President Roosevelt, although the Chief Executive has kept out of the fight.

Florence, S. C., Morning News
January 2, 1939

THAT — Rep. Mitchell, democrat of Ill., the only negro member of congress, and Rep. Gavagan, democrat of New York, have anti-lynching bills ready to drop into the hopper when congress convenes Tuesday. Both measures have the same objective — invoking federal authority against lynching.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
January 1, 1939

ANTI-LYNCH LAW.

The Hickory Record.

Attorney General McMullan announces that he may recommend to the coming General Assembly the enactment of a "strict anti-lynch bill."

Tar Heel people would do well to encourage the Attorney General to carry out his suggestion.

The best way to prevent enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law is for the Southern States to take the initiative in stamping out lynching which cannot be longer countenanced by civilized people.

Only six persons have been lynched in the South this year—which is two less than the number lynched in each of the two preceding years. Mississippi is the worst offender this year with three lynchings, and Florida, Georgia and Louisiana have had one each.

There have been 42 instances this year in which officers of the law prevented lynchings—39 of them in Southern States.

Commendable as the North Carolina record is, we should not hesitate to enact a law whereby members of lynch mobs would be guilty of murder, and providing compensation for the families of persons lynched, from public funds of the county in which the crime was committed.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
January 4, 1939

Governors Provide Argument

In favor of the federal anti-lynching bill, so-called, is an argument, to which, were it brought forward by Walter White, the colored leader whose spokesman in congress is Senator Wagner, The News and Courier would be embarrassed to find an answer.

That argument is that in the last three decades governors of South Carolina and other Southern states have by abuse or by loose and ignorant exercise of executive clemency annulled the verdicts of juries and sentences of judges to a degree that impairs confidence of the people in the execution of the criminal laws and invites them to resort to "lynch law."

Some of the governors more than lynchers have provided supporters of the anti-Southern bill with argument. If governors undo the work of state courts, there follows a reason for extending the powers of federal courts.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
January 3, 1939

MORE ANTI-LYNCH BILLS IN PROSPECT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Representative Mitchell, Illinois democrat, the only negro member of congress, and Representative Gavagan, New York democrat have anti-lynching bills ready to drop in the hopper. Both measures have the same objective—invoking federal authority against lynching.

The house judiciary committee approved Mitchell's bill in the last congress, but the rules committee bottled it up. Then Gavagan forced the rules committee to bring his bill to the floor and it passed.

Anti-lynching legislation subsequently got to the senate floor but Southerners filibusted it to death.

Mitchell said he was confident he could obtain judiciary committee approval of his bill again and would ask for early action. He added, however, that anti-lynching legislation was less urgent than formerly.

"'No major crime has been reduced with such rapidity," he said. "We have been making wonderful progress. There have been, I believe, about eight lynchings this year among 130,000,000 people whereas there were 231 40 years ago when the population was only 65,000,000."

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
January 2, 1939

LYNCHINGS AND LAW.

The Washington Post.

There is little likelihood that the constitutionally objectionable Federal anti-lynching bill will be revived if the South continues to improve its record. Nevertheless, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana should be made to realize that it is their inexcusable laxity which keeps the threat of Federal intervention alive. Other Southern states whose skirts are now clear have special reason to use their influence against barbarity which has become a menace to fundamental states' rights as well as to law and order.

LYNCHING BATTLE LOOMS

[illegible]
1-17-39
[illegible] Ala.

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Taking cognizance of reports that anti-lynching legislation [illegible] be introduced again this year, Senator Connally (D., Tex.) said today that opponents would "discuss it at length." Connally led the Southern filibuster which shelved the measure last session.

MINISTER URGES MR. GUY NOT TO INTRODUCE HIS BILL

Advertiser
1-15-39
Montgomery, Ala.

Editor, The Advertiser:

I most heartily agree with your leading editorial in your issue of today, "Teachers of Negro Students in Alabama," and like you I hope our friend, Senator R. M. (Renzo) Guy of adjoining Lowndes will not introduce such a bill. That bill if introduced and passed would make all of us who do missionary work violators of our laws and this we do not wish to do for it would force upon us the decision, "I must obey God rather than man."

I think every Christian regards it as his duty to do missionary work at home and abroad and our command is to go to all nations and to all individuals and such a law would interfere with one's own Christian duty.

When Senator Guy thinks this over I hope he will not introduce such a bill; if he does, I hope his fellow senators will not endorse it. If they do I hope the Governor, whose ancestors are great Christian ministers, will veto it.

REV. O. P. SPIEGEL.

Jan. 14, 1939, Montgomery, Ala.

* * * *

A TALE OF NEIGHBORLY KINDNESS

Editor, The Advertiser:

Some people have the mistaken idea that there is no more love in the hearts of men toward their fellow man and that the common rule is, to "get the other fellow before he gets you." There are those who say the hearts of men have become so hardened until no one cares what becomes of the other fellow. This might be true with some selfish people (and we have some who are selfish) but if those people who think everybody is inclined to be selfish, and that nobody cares about the other fellow would go with me to a certain hospital and see what I have seen for the past two weeks I think they would change their minds about certain things.

Here is the story: There is an official of Lowndes County in the hospital who has been there for some five or six weeks. This official needed blood and the word went out that some one must supply the blood for him if he was to get well What happened? There were over 400 Lowndes Countians who stood willing at any time to bare their arms and give as much blood as necessary. I saw no less than 25 men who came to the hospital for a test. The blood was supplied and now the gentleman we hope, is well on the road to recovery. The Master once said "Greater love hath no man than this, that he would lay down his life for his friend."

I have never seen such loyalty and love exhibited on the part of any people than that exhibited by those sturdy, friendly Lowndes Countians. The rest of the world might well emulate their example.

Montgomery, Ala. REV. WILL H. KAMPLAIN.

Concord, N C Tribune
January 3, 1939

LYNCHINGS AND LAW.

128C

The Washington Post.

There is little likelihood that the constitutionally objectionable Federal anti-lynching bill will be revived if the South continues to improve its record. Nevertheless, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana should be made to realize that it is their inexcusable laxity which keeps the threat of Federal interventioin alive. Other Southern states whose skirts are now clear have special reason to use their influence against barbarity which has become a menace to fundamental states' rights as well as to law and order.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
January 2, 1939

ANTI-LYNCHING BILLS READY FOR CONGRESS

Washington, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Representative Mitchell (D-Ill.), the only Negro member of Congress, and Representative Gavagan (D-N. Y.) have anti-lynching bills ready to drop in the legislative hopper when Congress convenes Tuesday. Both measures have the same objective—invoking federal authority against lynching.

The House Judiciary Committee approved Mitchell's bill in the last Congress, but the rules committee bottled it up. Then Gavagan forced the rules committee to bring his bill to the floor and it passed.

Anti-lynching legislation subsequently got to the Senate floor but southerners filibustered it to death.

Mitchell said he was confident he could obtain judiciary committee approval of his bill again and would ask for early action. He added, however, that anti-lynching legislation was less urgent than formerly.

"No major crime has been reduced with such rapidity," he said. "We have been making wonderful progress. There have been, I believe, about eight lynchings this year among 130,000,000 people, whereas there were 231 40 years ago when the population was only 65,000,000."

Rome Ga News Tribune
January 3, 1939

THE REDUCTION IN LYNCHINGS

ON THE eve of the assembling of the Congress and the promised renewal of the fight to bring about the adoption of the so-called "anti-lynch bill," an official report comes from Tuskegee Institute announcing that only six lynchings occurred in 1938, as compared to eight in 1937 and 1936.

Here is a 25 per cent reduction in the form of crime against which the anti-lynch bill ostensibly is aimed, and it probably constitutes the largest reduction in lawlessness to be found anywhere in the country.

It is a record that well may be viewed with envy by the opponents of kidnaping, gang killings, rioting and the like, outbreaks of which are more numerous outside of the South than within the South.

The figures prove the utter uselessness of the proposed legislation except as a political proposition, urged by certain Northern politicians in the hope that it will win for them the support of negro voters in their districts.

Nor is the selfish political factor the only element that condemns the proposal. It has been declared unconstitutional by some of the ablest members of the Congress, constituting as it does a direct and flagrant violation of the principle of state rights. It would be just as logical for the Federal government to undertake the punishment of traffic violators in Southern communities as to take charge of the prosecution of alleged lynchers. It is made doubly dangerous by reason of the fact that once such unconstitutional and unwarranted invasions are authorized there is no telling where the evil may end.

The South is handling the lynching problem with far greater effectiveness than other major crimes are being handled in other sections and, barring political selfishness, there is no excuse whatever for keeping the pending proposal alive.

Anti-Lynch Bill Accord Sought In Compromise

Advertiser

Roosevelt Represented As Anxious To Ward Off Another Filibuster

1-23-39

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—(AP)—A compromise anti-lynching proposal, designed to head off prolonged congressional controversy over this subject, was understood today to have the tacit approval of President Roosevelt.

Montgomery Ala.

Informed persons said Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to prevent a repetition of the Senate filibuster of last year which not only killed anti-lynching legislation for the session but also kept Senate business at a virtual standstill for six weeks.

The compromise, reported to have originated with Vice-President Garner, would provide for an investigation of all lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a public report to Congress of the findings.

There were indications, however, that the compromise might not be acceptable to the Southern Senators who talked the anti-lynching measure to death last year. Senator Connally, (D), Texas, a leader of the group, said he could not approve it.

The Texan said he was not averse to investigation by the FBI, but said he viewed the compromise as an "entering wedge" for more stringent legislation.

The bitterly fought Wagner-Van Nuys bill of last session would have subjected state officers to Federal prosecution for laxity in not preventing lynchings and would have permitted relatives of victims to sue the counties in which lynchings took place.

A slightly revised measure was introduced this session by Senators Wagner (D), New York, Van Nuys (D), Indiana and Capper (R), Kansas. Connally told the Senate the southerners were prepared to discuss it just as fully as they did last year's bill.

The compromise proposal would carry no provision for prosecution of dilatory state officials nor would it permit suits against the counties.

Disclaiming any knowledge of the proposal, Senator Van Nuys said he was not disposed to abandon the bill already introduced.

Meanwhile, Senator Borah (R), Idaho, who opposed the bill last year on grounds that it was unconstitutional said he believed there was no need for such legislation "because the South is magnificently settling the question itself."

"When you give the Federal government power to prosecute State officers and fine them for not doing their duty," Borah declared, "that is the end of state government."

MRS. F.D.R. SAYS "YES—BUT"

[illegible]

1-20-39

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, like all real liberals, is for the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill. But the manner in which the First Lady expresses her position on this needed legislation is not likely to stir up any additional enthusiasms for the passage of such a law.

The Associated Negro Press in reporting on a conference of NYA workers in Washington recently tells how the First Lady "stole the show" by agreeing to answer questions from the delegates.

"You ask me any question you like and I'll answer," is the way the correspondent reports the First Lady's statement to the Conference.

Upon being asked for a statement about anti-lynching legislation, Mrs. Roosevelt is reported to have said the following:

Nashville Journal

"As an individual, I will answer the question about anti-lynch legislation. I believe such a measure should be passed by the present congress, though I seriously doubt it would solve the problem of lynching. I believe it should be passed but framed to apply to all parts of the nation." The reporter continues, "This she said, would not make it sectional and would be a step in the right direction."

With regard to the effectiveness of an anti-lynching law, it would appear that Mrs. Roosevelt is not near as well "sold" on the measure as white liberals of the "Deep South." From down in Louisiana an editor recently urged the passage of the bill, saying that such a law would be very effective in curbing lynching. He pointed out that the "bad fellows" in his section who are persistent in robbing stores always pass up the postoffice. They do so because they fear being hunted down by Uncle Sam's investigators.

We hold that this fear is exactly what will inspire the behavior of the bold, bad lynchers if and when an anti-lynching law is enacted.

Of course Mrs. Roosevelt knows that no law to curb lynching could be passed that would apply to Mississippi and not at the same time apply to Massachusetts. No sectional bill ever has been offered by the opponents of lynching. Calling the proposed law "sectional" was merely a red herring that the Billbo-McKellar clan of fillibusterers dragged out in an attempt to justify their reactionary attitude toward really humanitarian legislation.

We sincerely hope that the way Mrs. Roosevelt has expressed herself on anti-lynching legislation does not get back to the "head of the house." Mr. F.D.R. most certainly will be compelled to express his regret that she, too, has joined the "Yes—But" sorority.

Michigan Solon Sponsors New Anti-Mob Bill

Journal & Guide

6-22-39

Norfolk, Va

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (ANP)—Because of his desire to have an anti-lynching law "with teeth in it," Representative Clarence J. McLeod (Rep. Mich.) last Wednesday introduced his measure, H. R. 5588, in the House of Representatives. Commenting on his interest in such legislation and his reaction to past bills, Congressman McLeod said:

"After a thorough study of the lynching question and a careful analysis of the various types of legislation which have been proposed in the past years to prevent lynching, I introduced House Resolution 5588.

This bill contains features that none of the other so far presented have contained, such as a section providing for the payment of $10,000 to the deceased party's heirs by any governmental subdivision that failed to take necessary measures to prevent the lynching. If we are to have an effective act we must incorporate therein every possible section that will put fear in the heart of lynchers and State and County officers who do nothing to prevent lynching.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6218

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
January 13, 1939

Mrs. Roosevelt Says She's For Anti-Lynch Act

Favors Passage Of Bill 'As An Individual'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told the National Conference on Negro Problems today that she thought Congress should pass the anti-lynching bill—"as a gesture, even if it doesn't succeed in doing away all at once with all the evils it seeks to curb."

The First Lady explained that she spoke as an individual. She said she believed it "should be passed as applying to every part of the country," so that nowhere citizens could think of taking the law into their own hands.

Atlanta, Ga., Constitution
January 13, 1939

MRS. F. D. R BACKS ANTI-LYNCH LAW

Tells Negro Group Organization Would Help.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—(AP)—Urging that the rights of minorities be observed, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told the National Conference on Negro Problems today that she would like to see anti-lynching legislation passed.

As her audience of nearly 1,000 negroes applauded, the first lady also declared that "the right to work should know no color line" and suggested that the remedy, if work discrimination exists, would be in "better organization."

"Organization which knows no color line," she added.

And in a good labor organization, she said, workers must endeavor "to give better service as well as to get better treatment."

Chester, S. C., Reporter
January 16, 1939

Mrs. Roosevelt says she favors a Federal anti-lynching law, and goes on to say: "I doubt very much if a law will actually stop lynching, but I would like to see it passed because it puts us, as a whole, against something which we should all be against." One of the reasons for the nation-wide disrespect for law today is the multiplicity of laws, many of them contradictory, and involving matters of little or no moment. The result is a hostile attitude toward the enforcement of law has sprung up that makes the enforcement of any particular law difficult. If measures of all kinds involving violation of law were simplified and condensed, and more attention given enforcement results would be decidedly more encouraging.

Charlotte, N. C., Observer
January 13, 1939

FIRST LADY IS FOR LYNCH BILL

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Mrs. Roosevelt Says Personally She Favors Federal Law If Only as Gesture.

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The First Lady explained that she spoke as an individual. She said she believed it "should be passed as applying to every part of the country," so that nowhere citizens could think of taking the law into their own hands." 16

Humboldt, Tenn., Courier-Chronicle
January 19, 1939

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt said in a speech welfare conference held in Washington that she thought the anti-lynching bill "should be passed as a gesture even if it does not succeed in doing away all at once with all the evils it seeks to curb." If it does not reduce lynchings to absolute zero the passage of the bill will achieve the purpose of its promoters, which is to make "safe for democracy" (the New Deal) in the seven doubtful states in which negroes hold the balance of power in elections. Mrs. Roosevelt says she was expressing her personal opinion, a thing she does regularly and about many things. If a bill could be passed which would take her out-of-circulation it would help some.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
January 13, 1939

ANTILYNCH BILL LAUDED

Mrs. Roosevelt Says She Hopes Congress Will Pass It

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Nashville, Tenn., Tennessean
January 13, 1939

LYNCH BILL

First Lady Hopes Congress Will Approve Measure

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Selma, Ala., Times Journal
January 26, 1939

IT HAS IT'S USES

Among the several excellent arguments against the passage of a Federal anti-lynching law, one of the best has been made by no less than Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt herself, who favors such a law but adds that probably "it would do no good."

And, as most newspapers have observed, why pass a law that won't do any good?

Everybody knows we have too many useless laws already.—The Dothan Eagle.

Surely the editor of the Eagle realizes that the anti-lynching bill was not introduced with the primary purpose of accomplishing anything constructive. It is now almost openly admitted in some quarters that the legislation was drafted as a New Deal political payoff for certain Northern votes, and to those now in power, no law is useless which will corral large blocs of votes.

Cordele, Ga., Dispatch
January 17, 1939

We cannot but regret Mrs. Roosevelt's expression of sympathy with the anti-lynching bill. Her statement that it should be passed as a "gesture" leaves us more than cold. We've had enough of "gesture" legislation in the South, and must pause to wonder at just whom the gesture is directed.

Lake City, Fla., Reporter
January 20, 1939

Mrs. Roosevelt says she is very much in favor of the anti-lynching bill. Well, we like ice cream, but that doesn't mean Senators Borah, Pepper, Ellender and some other Southerners like everything.

Sylvester, Ga., Local
January 19, 1939

MRS. ROOSEVELT FAVORS ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told the National Conference on negro problems Thursday that she thought Congress should pass the anti-lynching bill—"as a gesture even if it doesn't succeed in doing away all at once with all the evils it seeks to curb."

The First Lady explained that she spoke as an individual. She said she believed it "should be passed as applying to every part of the country," so that nowhere citizens could think of taking the law into their own hands.

Charlotte, N. C., Observer
January 13, 1939

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Mrs. Roosevelt Says Personally She Favors Federal Law If Only as Gesture.

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Gadsden, Ala. Times
January 19, 1939

MRS. ROOSEVELT IN UNFORTUNATE ROLE

MRS. ROOSEVELT is rendering no service to the negro or to the cause of pleasant racial relations by advocating the passage of the anti-lynch bill ~~and~~ in urging that "organization should know no color line."

In urging that there be no color line in organization, Mrs. Roosevelt obviously is thinking of the negro in relation to the South. Would she advocate the same principle in California, for instance, where the color line is drawn, not between white and black, but between yellow and black?

"Organization" is a broad word, highly inclusive. It embraces society, church and fraternity as well as racial and trade groups, and the impression has been general that each element should be judge of its own membership—a view that will continue to control in the South regardless of what may be said by persons dominated by a contrary viewpoint.

The negroes of the South are not agitating the race question. They are living at peace with their white neighbors, and it is unfortunate that the question should be agitated by negroes outside of the South and that a spokesman of the prominence of Mrs. Roosevelt should be enlisted by these negroes. She means well but she is not playing a helpful role when speaking as she did in Washington Thursday or in participating as she did in the recent conference at Birmingham where resolutions opposing segregation of the races were adopted.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
January 16, 1939

Mrs. Roosevelt is said to have stated that the anti-lynching bill should be passed "as a gesture," even if it did not curb the evil. As a guesture of what—the administration's often shown "friendliness" to the South or of friendliness to the large number of colored voters in the northern states?

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the federal government's interference. No state can possibly achieve full enforcement of any of its laws, but every state is guaranteed the right to seek to discourage, in its own way, the violation of its own statutes.

If a federal antilynching law "would do no good," why clutter the statute books with it? We have too many useless laws already.

Albany, Ga., Herald
January 21, 1939

THE "FIRST LADY" ON LYNCHING

The First Lady of the Land is of course free to think what she pleases and say what she thinks, but many of her admirers are not a little sorry that she expressed the hope, in a recent statement, that the perennial antilynching bill will be passed by Congress. She admits that its enactment probably would result in very little good, but it would be a "gesture" reassuring to some.

It would not be reassuring to the South. This section is handling the lynching problem quite satisfactorily. There were but six lynchings in the entire country in 1938, and that number does not justify

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Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
January 13, 1939

Mrs. Roosevelt thinks the anti-lynching bill should be passed by congress "as a gesture, even if it doesn't succeed in doing away all at once with all the evils it seeks to curb." We are sure Mrs. Roosevelt does not realize it, but there would be more danger than help in the "gesture."

Witnesses Suggested On Anti-Lynch Bill

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A list of distinguished white and colored witnesses who might be invited to testify in favor of a federal anti-lynching bill was suggested to the sponsors of the legislation this week by the N. A. A. C. P.

Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, Frederick Van Nuys, of Indiana, and Arthur Capper, of Kansas, were supplied the list by Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary.

Afro
2-25-39

REPEAL FILIBUSTERING

No greater test of the sincerity and zeal of the real liberals of the United States is provided for them than in the 1939 edition of a Federal Anti-Lynching Law, now before the Congress.

Although a half dozen or more brutal lynchings have been reported since the South's Old Guard senators did the 1938 bill to death, and there is no telling how many more mob murders have taken place in the backward states, only to be covered up by a refusal of authorities and newspapers to report them, the 1939 Federal Anti-Lynching Law is to be subjected to the same kind of cowardly obstruction that, down through the years has prevented such a law from being enacted. We are promised by the Old Guard Senators that they intend to go through their paces in another filibuster characterized by the same kind of bunk and bathos with which these traitors to American democracy have all along insulted the intelligence of the American people.

There may be some need to resent the denunciation which Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin make of the "democracies" and of their ability to function for the general welfare. But in the particular case of how a handful of filibustering senators, who for the most part hold their offices by fraud and in defiance of the right of citizens to select their legislators, it is fair to say that these United States can not boast of having a democracy as long as its government can be kept from functioning by the archaic rules of the United States Senate that permit these "wind bags" to conduct such a farce as the one carried on last year.

The proposed Federal Anti-Lynching law is a challenge to President Franklin D. Roosevelt to lead this nation in an attack on the United States Senate for its recreancy to public duty in maintaining its royal prerogative of "free and unlimited debate" thereby giving the senate the power to override the wishes of the House of Representatives and also the wishes of the Chief Executive.

The proposed Federal Anti-Lynching law is also a challenge to those senators who want an anti-lynching law passed to amend the rules so as to get rid of this ridiculous handicap to legislation by majority rule. Surely senators know that they do not represent the wishes of a majority of the American people when they maintain for themselves and for any small minority of their body power such as does not obtain in any other deliberative body in this country.

"My spirit will not always strive with man," we are told in Holy Writ. Nor will the spirit of unwarranted tolerance always concede to the United States senate its right to thwart the will of the people by its adherence to outmoded customs and rules which no sane person will concede were born of logic and common sense.

No member of the senate would dare go to the American people and undertake to defend free speech as including the right to carry on a filibuster such as has disgraced that body every time an anti-lynching bill has come up for passage.

A majority of the people of the United States wants a Federal Anti-Lynching bill passed; a majority of the people of the South wants such a bill passed. The American Institute of Public Opinion, after a fair and impartial survey, has proved this to be a fact.

The United States is put in an embarrassing position in trying to argue the superiority of democracy over autocracy as long as it permits a senate filibuster to continue as an obstacle to the enactment of legislation the people desire and the nation needs.

It is up to the United States Senate to get realistic and get modern by surrendering its right of filibustering, a senate prerogative, which by no stretch of the imagination can be conceded as being a right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

2-24-39
Norfolk
Journal

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6219

BLYTHEVILLE, ARK. COUR. NEWS
DEC. 29. 1938

Why Bring The Anti-Lynching Bill Up?

Almost simultaneously with the announcement by Senator Van Nuys that he plans to again introduce the controversial anti-lynching bill at the approaching session of congress is the announcement by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, that a new low of six lynchings was set in the United States in 1938.

In a letter to the Courier News editor the Tuskegee Institute president discloses that the 1938 total is two less than the number lynched in 1937 and 1936 and 14 less than the number lynched in 1935.

The record appears to speak for itself as showing an earnest effort on the part of law enforcement officers to prevent mob violence, which can never be justified.

Records compiled by Tuskegee Institute disclose 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, three of these being in northern states and 39 in southern states. A total of 53 persons, three white men, 49 negro men and one negro woman were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

The actual lynchings were confined to four southern states, three having one each and Mississippi having three. Arkansas and many other southern states are not on the list.

In view of the decrease in the number of lynchings it is improbable that passage of the anti-lynching bill, even admitting its constitutionality, would prove a deterrent that would do away with all lynchings. A mob has little regard for consequences.

About the only purpose that introduction of the anti-lynching bill can serve at this time seems to be a revival of bitter feeling, between members of the congress and sections of the country as well.

Why should the senator from Indiana feel impelled to re-introduce a measure, bearing such racial and sectional strife, at a time when other matters are of much more moment?

Clinton, S. C. Chronicle
January 26, 1939

To Compromise On Anti-Lynching Bil

Proposal, Said To Be Garner's Would Let FBI Investigat and Report To Congress.

Washington, Jan. 23.—A compromise anti-lynching proposal, designec to head off prolonged congressiona controversy over this subject, was understood today to have the tacit approval of President Roosevelt.

Informed persons said Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to prevent a repetition of the senate filibuster of last year which not only killed anti-lynching legsilation for the session but also kept senate business at a virtual standstill for six weeks.

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The Texan said he was not adverse to investigation by the FBI, but said he viewed the compromise as an "entering wedge" for later more stringent legislation.

The bitterly fought Wagner- Van Nuys bill of last session would have subjected state officers to federal prosecution for laxity in not preventing lynchings and would have permitted relatives of victims to sue the counties in which lynchings took place.

A slightly revised measure was introduced this session by Senators Wagner, Democrat, New Yorke, Van Nuys, Democrat, Indiana, and Capper, Republican, Kansas. Connally told the senate the Southerners were prepared to discuss it just as fully as they did last year's bill.

The compromise proposal would carry no provision for prosecution of dilatory state officials nor would it permit suits against the counties.

Disclaiming any knowledge of the proposal, Senator Van Nuys said he was not disposed to abandon the bill already introduced.

Meanwhile, Senator Borah, Republican, Idaho, who opposed the bill last year on grounds that it was unconstitutional, said he believed there was no need for such legislation "because the south is magnificently settling the question itself."

"When you give the federal government power to prosecute state officers and fine them for not doing their duty," Borah declared, "that is the end of state government."

Cordele, Ga. News
January 12, 1939

We're not much inclined toward waving the Confederate flag and singing "Dixie" in lusty tones when some damyankee ideas upset us But we're liable to go haywire and start something if that anti-lynch bill is dragged through Congress at such lengths as it was last session. Hours of debate, pages and pages of Congressional Record, thousands and thousands of dollars spent —and to what end? There are still enough Southern senators to kill the bill, eventually, but why go through the throes of killing it every session, only to have it rise up again when another "whip" is sought?

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courie
February 1, 1939

New Anti-Lynching Bill.

An anti-lynching bill was defeated at the last session of Congress by a filibuster of Southern Senators, who claimed that it would be an invasion of State rights. The bill proposed to fine a county in which a lynching might occur, also to remove any Sheriff or other officer found guilty of neglect of duty in failing to prevent a lynching.

There now are reports that President Roosevelt tacitly has approved a compromise bill. Under the compromise, said to have been suggested by Vice-President Garner, the Federal Bureau of Investigation would inquire into all lynchings and make a public report. That would be as far as the Federal Government would go in dealing with the lynching problem.

Probably Southern Senators would hesitate to oppose a measure of that kind, or at least to filibuster against it. Opposition hardly could be justified on the ground the law would interfere with State rights. All that the Government would do would be to send agents into a State to investigate a lynching and to make public the information which it would gather. That would be better than no anti-lynching law, since it would throw light on the question of who constituted the mob and on the actions of responsible officials

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Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
January 25, 1939

Another Anti-Lynching Bill

The nation again is going to be obliged to witness a fight in Congress over an anti-lynching bill. Senators Wagner, Van Nuys and Capper will sponsor the measure and they will find the senators and representatives from the South as bitterly opposed to its passage as they have been in the past.

Any person who has lived in the South or who knows the southern people must know that great progress has been made in curbing the activities of mobs. Sentiment against lynching is as strong in the South as it is against gangsterism and mob intimidation of business men in the larger cities of the East and Middle West.

Last year a further decrease in the number of lynchings was noted. The South is on its way to completely eliminate that offense. Can other states say as much relating to the elimination of gangsters and equally vicious breaches of law? It is most unfortunate that some well-meaning and some meddlesome persons who do not understand must, at intervals, revive the old conflict in Congress.

STILLWATER OKLA. PRESS
JAN. 23, 1939 130

FEWER LYNCHINGS

The strongest answer to advocates of a federal anti-lynching law rests in the annual report of the Tuskegee Institute, in which is detailed the national record for the last year. It shows, incontrovertibly, the South has been stamping out the heinous crime in no uncertain manner. Lynching is the one crime in which there has been a sharp decrease.

During 1938, six persons were lynched, two less than in the years 1936 and 1937, and fourteen less than in 1935.

Significantly, no one of the persons lynched were in the hands of law officers when seized, while records reveal that officers prevented lynchings in thirty-nine cases in the South. Three cases in the North were reported which, with the southern cases, brought the total number saved in the forty-two cases to fifty-three persons. Of these, three were white men, forty-nine Negro men and one a Negro woman.

The crime committed apparently had little effect upon commission of the additional crime of lynching. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said offenses charged to victims were: murder, three; rape, one; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, one, and insulting remarks to a woman, with three lynchings. Georgia, Louisiana and Florida had one each.—Atlanta Constitution.

Cleveland, Tenn. Banner
January 13, 1939

That Futile Gesture Again

WASHINGTON NEWS reports state that another federal anti-lynching bill is to be dumped into the congressional hopper in the near future. Commentators add, however, the bill will be "devoid of some features" opponents found objectionable at the last attempt to ram a bill with the same label down the throat of the South.

Of course, the truth is no federal anti-lynching bill is desirable, except in the political sense for northern representatives who hope thus to pay for value received in the form of votes. Those who seek enactment of such a bill, incidentally, are seeking something which can never mean anything tangible; which can, in its results, prove only as futile as the search for food in Dead sea apples, which turn to ashes in the mouth.

It is reported, now, that slayings by gangsters are to be included in the new bill as "lynchings." Its proponents hope thus to answer one of the arguments of the opposition, which, at the last session of congress pointed to the exemption of gang killings as proof the measure was directed at the South.

The truth is, of course, the crime of lynching is rapidly disappearing from the American scene, in all parts of the country, not only the South. It is succumbing to the only forces which can possibly prove effective, the courage and firmness of law officers, the growth in respect for the law by the general public and better education of more of the people.

There are, already, ample laws on the statute books, both state and federal, against lynching. Enactment of a new law would be but the silly gesture of passing a law to enforce a law already on the books.

It is as absurd as passing a new law prohibiting murder, in excited disapproval of a new series of vicious homicides, as though the crime of murder was not already fully set forth in the criminal codes of all states and nations.

The proposed anti-lynching law, in any form, is an extreme example of political inspiration for legislation, as well as of that universal American weakness, attempting to eliminate all evil by "passing a law agin it."

Those who seek to instill perfect public morality by statute merely confess their own impatience with the slower, but essential, road to improvement, education.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
January 5, 1939

~~Plans For Simple~~ Anti-Lynching Bill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Senator Wagner (D-NY) said he would ask the session of congress to approve a "simplified" anti-lynching bill.

Wagner said it would be sponsored by himself, Senator Van Nuys (D-Ind), Senator Capper (R-Kans) and possibly others. Anti-lynching legislation brought on a senate filibuster by southerners last year and bogged down.

The new proposal, Wagner said, was intended to meet some objections against the old one but would be materially different.

Brevard, N. C. Transylvania Times
February 2, 1939

Mrs. Roosevelt Favors Anti-Lynching Move

WASHINGTON—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was on record Friday in favor of enactment of a federal anti-lynching law which would apply to all forms of mob violence.

She told a meeting of the National Congress on Negro Youth that she would like to see such a measure passed "as soon as possible."

"I doubt very much if a law will actually stop lynching," she said, "but I would like to see it passed because it puts us, as a whole, againt something which we should all be against." The legislation should be worded so as to cover all forms of mass violence, she added.

Mrs. Roosevelt made her remarks in answer to questions from the floor of the meeting. She emphasized that she spoke herself and not for the administration.

Approximately 1,000 negroes attended the meeting, sponsored by the National Youth Administration.

The first lady said she also favored equal opportunity for negroes and whites in naval and military schools and in civil service.

"The right to work," she said, "should know no color line."

Lexington, Miss. Advertiser
January 19, 1939

Current Comment

BY HENRY WILLIS

The Anti-Lynching Bill has been introduced in Congress again and Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt announces she "hopes it will pass." So far as the bill actually goes there is really nothing particularly bad about it. But it has come to be an act aimed at the South and is meant to be a reproach to this section. Therefore all the Southern men in both houses of congress will fight it, and properly so. Briefly, the bill provides that whenever a lynching occurs the Sheriff of the county is removed from office and the family of the person lynched is paid $10,000.00 from the county funds. The frequent gangster killings in the North are as much "lynching" as anything that happens in the South but the bill will not be allowed to apply to them. The so-called "lynchings" in this section have steadily decreased—which indicates that the South is solving its own problem without Federal interference.

Greenwood, S. C. Index Journal
January 23, 1939

A COMPARISON

Senators Wagner and Van Nuys, both Democrats from States with a large colored vote which has been captured by the Democratic party, have introduced again their anti-lynching bill in the Senate. They have persuaded Senator Capper, a Republican, to join with them as authors.

Senator Wagner's comment on the fact that there were only six lynchings in the United States last year was to the effect that there was not a single arrest or prosecution in any of the cases.

And how many gangster murders in New York City were there in which there were no arrests last year?

The hypocrisy wrapped up in this anti-lynching business is nauseating.

Edison, Ga., News
January 6, 1939

That anti-lynch bill is to be introduced in Congress again and as a result Congress will spend several weeks if not months debating the bill with the final result that it will be shelved until a more favorable time. It seems to us that those who are seeking to have this bill passed would soon realize that a true, dyed-in-the-wool Southern Congressman and Senator will leave no stone unturned to prevent the bill from becoming a law and that to try to shove this bill down the throats of the South is a mere waste of time, breath and money.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
January 20, 1939

Anti-Lynching Fight Renewed

A vigorous fight was foreseen after the anti-lynching bill was reintroduced by Senators Van Nuys (Democrat), Indiana; Wagner (Democrat), New York, and Capper (Republican), Kansas.

They were immediately challenged by the Southern anti-lynching bloc, which declared it is ready for another fight on the issue. In previous sessions the bill has been filibustered to death by these Southern members.

Eatonton, Ga., Messenger
February 2, 1939

Mrs. Roosevelt Favors Anti-lynching Bill

The Messenger joins many other newspapers of the state in regretting that Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has placed her approval on the anti-lynching bill. It is our belief that Mrs. Roosevelt would not have done this had she been better acquainted with the South and its problems.

We share Mrs. Roosevelt's hopes that there will never be another lynching in the United States, but such a law would hinder rather than help in preventing such. Georgia is doing its part toward stopping lynchings and its is our belief that a law aimed directly at the South, omitting gang wars in the North, would not help us in our aims.

Crawfordville, Ga. Democrat
January 20, 1939

Senator Clark of Missouri will not find it easy to promote his candidacy for the democratic presidential nomination in 1940 when his record supporting the anti-lynching bill becomes better known. He also signed the petition to shut off debate in the Senate on the bill.

Sandersville, Ga., Progress
February 2, 1939

The revival of the anti-lynching bill will be vehementaly opposed by southern congressmen. The only method of stopping lynching is for the human brutes to quit committing the heinous crimes that provoke mob action. The bill exempts racketeers and gangsters of the northern states, although they commit ten times more lynchings than occur in the southern states.

LYNCHINGS_ 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

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Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
January 24, 1939

If advocates of the anti-lynching bill want to see Congress go ahead with the important work that is before it, they will not push for passage of their pet measure. When it is proposed, if it is, Southern members are going to stage a filibuster that will stop all action for as long as is necessary to defeat the bill.

Savannah, Ga., Press
January 25, 1939

Washington advises a new anti-lynching bill similar in substance, but different in detail from the one which caused a prolonged filibuster a year ago, until it was withdrawn, has been introduced in the Senate. Senators Wagner and Van Nuys, sponsors of the former bill, put in the new one, with the name of Senator Capper as an additional co-author.

Birmingham, Ala., Age Herald
January 25, 1939

Forum Of The People

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

To Editor, The Age-Herald:

To revive the anti-lynching bill in any form, and to begin rattling its mouldy bones in federel legislative halls is a usurpation of state's rights. The South has greatly reduced lynchings without federal interference, and that in the face of much partisan criticism.

There were only six lynchings in 1938, and none of the victims were taken from the custody of officers of the law, while brave officers prevented more than 40 attempted lynchings. It is far safer now, according to the records, for anyone to live out their days in the vast area of the South, with only six lynchings annually, than to try to live in some other sections of this republic, where gunmen riding in high-powered cars, armed with machine guns spitting red death, snuff out the lives of lawabiding citizens, solely because they refuse to be filched by these ranging hyenas, who resort to hijacking methods, that they may live in wanton ease, without putting out honest labor. That these conditions obtain, is well known, but we do not hear any loud and insistent voices being raised in federal legislative halls to put a quick crimp in such high-handed outlawry. It is not the man of color that is loved so devotedly by the advocates of this sectional and partisan piece of attempted legislation, but the entire white citizenship of the South, who are loved less.

To state the question in a few words, and squeeze the last bitter drop of juice from it, it is a piece of highly charged political expediency. The lawabiding black man is in no panic over the situation, and he is in no hurry to leave his native South.

This question is full of dynamite, and real statesmen like Senator Borah, prefer to let the sovereign states handle it without meddling federal interference. But those with high-powered prejudices are heating the political poker to thrust it in the powder magazine just to enjoy listening to the explosion, utterly unmindful of the results. I am uttering no prophecy, but I feel that I am expressing the sentiment of more than 90 per cent of the people of the South.

Belle Mina, Ala. O. L. MILLICAN.

Millen, Ga., News
January 26, 1939

ANTI-LYNCH BILL REVISION DRAWN

COMPROMISE PROVIDING F B I PROBE, SAID TO HAVE ORIGINATED WITH GARNER

Washington, Jan. 22.—A compromise anti-lynching proposal, designed to head off prolonged congressional controversay over this subject, was understood today to have the tacit approval of President Roosevelt.

Informed persons said Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to prevent a repetition of the senate filibuster of last year which not only killed anti-lynching legislation for the session but also kept senate business at a virtual standstill for six weeks.

The compromise, reported to have originated with Vice President Garner, would provide for an investigation of all lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a public report to congress of the findings.

Meanwhile, Senator Borah (R.-Idaho), who opposed the bill last year on grounds that it was unconstitution, said he believed there was no need for such legislation "because the South is magnificently settling the question itself."

"When you give the federal government power to prosecute state officers and fine them for not doing their duty," Borah declared, "that is the end of state government."

Charlotte, N.C., News
January 23, 1939

Bad News For Lynchers

The compromise which Jack Garner is said to have worked out on the Federal anti-lynching bill, and which the President is reported to be backing, seems admirably contrived. In brief, it is simply that the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall investigate all lynchings and make a report of its findings to Congress.

The great objection to the Wagner-Van Nuys bill, which was killed in the last Congress after a long filibuster by Southern Senators, including North Carolina's Bailey, was that it attempted to give the Federal Government the power to decide whether or not local officials had performed their duty and to punish them if it judged that they hadn't. And as Senator Borah pointed out at the time, that was genuinely a very dubious assault on the authority of the states.

The compromise bill eliminates that, since the Federals will have no power to prosecute. And at the same time, it promises to put local officials who are derelict in their duty squarely on the spot. The claim which is invariably made is that they are unable to find out who the lynchers were — obviously a ridiculous claim, in most cases. Investigation by the FBI and publication of its findings will utterly deprive them of that excuse and leave them no choice but to act or confess that they are conniving at murder. And at the same time, the knowledge that the dreaded G-men will track them down ought to have a very salutary effect in dissuading potential lynchers from committing the crime at all.

Atlanta, Ga., Journal
January 26, 1939

Group Seeks Radio for State Police

T. 4/11

Anti-Lynching Association Opens Meeting in Atlanta

Establishment of radio-equipped state police patrols in all southern states will be major objective of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, according to Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the group.

The association opened its annual two-day meeting at the Piedmont Hotel Thursday, with leaders from all parts of the south on hand to take part in panel discussions and help formulate a program for the year.

Mrs. Ames stated that the association will work for radio police patrols "because they can mobilize so much quicker" in cases of emergency. Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina do not provide radio communication for their state patrols, she pointed out, while Florida and Kentucky have no state patrols at all.

The association itself will not sponsor legislation to provide radio communication, the director asserted, but will work with co-operating organizations in each state. She said that between eighty and ninety organizations in the south co-operate in the educational program against lynching.

Mrs. Ames declined to discuss the anti-lynch measure proposed to Congress, but did express the opinion that it "has served to make us more lynch-conscious." The association is educational in its program and takes no part in political activities, she said.

Lynchings in 1938 numbered six, the smallest figure since 1882, reported R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Southern Inter-Racial Commission. He attributed the improvement to work of newspapers, churches and other organizations which helped create a "better public opinion."

The association will hold its annual dinner at 7 p. m. Thursday, with Major Phil Brewster, Georgia commissioner of public safety, as the principal speaker.

Dothan, Ala., Eagle
January 26, 1939

ANTI-LYNCH GROUP FOR STATE POLICE WITH RADIO SETUP

Major Objective Of Association Meeting In Atlanta Session Told

ATLANTA (AP)—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, said today establishment of radio-equipped state police patrols in all Southern states would be a major 1939 objective of the organization.

Opening the annual two-day meeting, Mrs. Ames said the association "wants every Southern tsate to have radio police patrols because they can mobilize so much quicker" in cases of emergency. She said Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina had no radios in their state patrols, and that Florida and Kentucky had no patrols.

Mississippi, Georgia and Florida, she said, usually had one or more lynchings a year.

She said the association would not itself sponsor legislation to install radio-equipped patrols throughout the South, but that it would "cooperate with any organization working for it" in each state.

Southerners, she said, are more conscious of lynching now than ever before. While declining to comment on a proposed anti-lynch measure before Congress, she said she believed it "has served to make us much more lynch-conscious."

Six lynchings last year, R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Southern Inter-Racial Commission, said was the lowest number since 1882. He attributed the decrease to work of various organizations, newspapers and churches which tended to create a "better public opinion."

Cordele. Ga Dispatch
January 23, 1939

THE ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Most recent developments in the anti-lynch bill are to the effect that a compromise will be attempted. While it is reported that a majority of the Congressmen and Senators would favor the old Wagner-Van Nuys measure were it be introduced, it is also practically a certainty that there are sufficient Southerners in Congress to filibuster until ice forms in very peculiar places before they would allow such a measure to pass.

To practically all of us in the South such a measure as the old anti-lynch bill is an insult and an injustice It is an insult because should such a bill become law, in the case of further lynchings reflection throughout the nation would be directly cast on the counties where the crimes occur. It is an injustice because the penalties for the crimes are visited not only on the guilty parties, but upon an infinitely greater number of innocent persons.

Lynchings, strictly speaking, is a crime peculiar to the South. In a broader sense, however, when one classifies any example of mob killing such as gang murders, strike killings and the like crimes of the same nature, they are not limited to the South. In fact when a broad interpretation is placed on what constitutes a lynching, we have, if anything, less than our share of such crimes.

Southern leaders are the most anxious of any in the nation to abolish this crime.

For many years the escutcheons of the South have been blackened by cases of flagrant disobedience of the basic rule of society; that an accused man be given the right of trial. For years we have fought against this holdover from the primitive that disgraces us anew every year. Now, as 1938 records show the crime has been practically abolished.

Why, at this time, when we have practically worked this problem out for ourselves, such a hullabaloo, and fanfare should be raised in Congress about what is now an almost non-existent situation, we cannot clearly see. It appears to us a beautiful case of a tempest in a teapot.

Let us hope that the Congress will see fit to let the matter of an anti-lynching bill drop. We can see no future for such a measure except firstly a tough nut for Congress to crack at great trouble and expense, and secondly another bone of contention between the South and the rest of the nation.

Fernandina, Fla.—Georgia News
January 6, 1939

Fewer Lynchings

“The strongest answer to advocates of a federal anti-lynching law rests in the annual report of the Tuskegee Institute, in which is detailed the national record for the last year. It shows, incontrovertibly, the south has been stamping out the heinous crime in no uncertain manner. Lynching is the one crime in which there has been a sharp decrease, quotes The Atlanta Constitution.

“During 1938, six persons were lynched, two less than in the years 1936 and 1937, and 14 less than in 1935.”

“Significantly, no one of the persons lynched was in the hands of law officers when seized, while records reveal that officers prevented lynchings in 39 cases in the south. Three cases in the north were reported which, with the southern cases, brought the total number saved in the 42 cases to 53 persons. Of these, three were white men, 49 negro men and one a negro woman.

The crime committed apparently had little effect upon commission of the additional crime of lynching. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said offenses charged to victims were: murder, 3; rape, 1; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; and insulting remarks to a woman, 1. Mississippi had the blackest record, with three lynchings. Georgia, Louisiana and Florida had one each.”

“The attitude of the south—the decent element of the south—is reflected in the stern measures taken to stamp out rioting around Smyrna in Cobb county several months ago. The disgust of responsible citizens and prompt action taken by all law enforcement agencies quickly suppressed the vicious irresponsibility manifested by a small group of agitators.”

“Public sentiment is the only method by which lynching can be stamped out and the south, perhaps more than any other section of the nation, has revolted against the blind, ignorant and vicious elements that constitute mobs.”

“Dr. A. A. Brill, famed Columbia University psychologist, has said “anyone taking part in or witnessing a lynching cannot remain a civilized person.” Dr. Brill perhaps misses a point: it is difficult to see how a civilized person can take part in, or witness, a lynching—by their very presence they demonstrate their lack of any of the finer instincts of mankind or of civilization. For the crime of lynching extends beyond the actual murder committed—it affects every person in the country. It is the lynching of citizenship, the rejection of democratic government, and the prostitution of a people. It is a sign of decadence—happily one the south is stamping out.”

“In Georgia, which has the unenviable record of standing second only to Mississippi in the total number of lynchings, with 571 over a period of 50 years, the action of authorities in crushing the Smyrna mob should stand as an example. Unfortunately, this stern action was not taken earlier in the year at Arabi, where a negro was lynched for the murder of a police officer. The Smyrna rioting was the result of the murder of two white persons and was not directed at the perpetrator of the crime, rather at members of his race—honest, decent and law-abiding residents of the county. The murderer was kept safely in a place the cowardly members of the mob dared not attack. The law took its course, and the killer was legally executed in proper time. It would not have been different at Arabi. But, instead, an irremovable blot has been place on the name of that little city—not by its citizens, but by a mob which formed quickly from all sections of the county.”.

“For this reason, reinforcement of local police authorities by state patrolmen and national guardsmen, if necessary, should be quick and standard practice. The temper of the mob is known—it is imperative that the mob know the temper of the law enforcement agencies and 99 per cent of the people of the state. Lynching is an intolerable crime.”

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6221

PAWNEE, OK. COUR'R-DISPATCH
JAN. 19, 1939 J26
NOWATA, OK. STAR
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AFTON, OK. AMERICAN
JAN. 12, 1939 J21

WASHINGTON NEWS LETTER
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BY CONGRESSMAN
WESLEY E. DISNEY
House of Representatives
Ways and Means Committee

By Congressman Wesley E. Disney

LYNCHING: News from the Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Alabama, is to the effect that ~~there had~~ been a marked decrease in lynching during the last two years. 20 were lynched in the United States in 1935; 8 in 1936 and 1937; and 6 in 1938. There were instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching. Three of these were in northern states and 39 in southern states. A total of 53 persons, three white men, 49 negro men and one negro woman were saved from the hands of mobs.

This bears out the contention of those of us who voted against the anti-lynching bill, on the theory that states themselves could properly take care of such situations.

DIES COMMITTEE: One of the first big rows that will happen in this session of Congress is the question of the continuation of the so-called Dies Committee, for the investigation of un-American activities. The Committee has had considerable newspaper quarreling with some members of the Administration—not over any matter of principle involved, but over methods. The Administration apparently does not dare to propose the continuation of the Committee, so it is likely that the Committee will be continued in its activities by an overwhelming vote in the House. My personal view is that the Committee has done some good work, and that at this partcular time, it is especially necessary. I shall vote for its continuation.

RELIEF: Senators are beginning to struggle with the appropriation of additional money for relief. The bill proposes 875 million. The Senate Elections Committee has not yet released its report on WPA political activity. That will probably make a difference in the attitude of Congress toward continued appropriations. I still think that the local authorities could handle the relief situation, with Federal funds, because they know the needs of the people.

RELIGION IN THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: 'The President's discussion of religion in his message on the State of the Union struck a deep philosophical tone. He apparently is convinced that the war madness that pervades the whole world can only be allayed by spiritual strength. His message is a definite effort to consolidate moral forces and religious activities of the whole world in a solid front against thec ruelty and hatefulness of war. If he can lead the peoples of the earth in this direction, maybe we can avoid another world holocaust. Rearmament alone will not accomplish it.

Dawson, Ga., News
January 26, 1939

NEW ANTI-LYNCH BILL IS BEING FORMULATED

INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, INDICATE SOUTHERN OPPOSITION TO COMPROMISE.

A compromise anti-lynch measure, designed to head off congressional controversy, was understood this week to have the tactic approval of President Roosevelt.

It was stated that Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to prevent a repetition of the senate filibuster of last year which not only killed anti-lynching legislation for the session but also kept senate business at a virtual standstill for six weeks.

The compromise, reported to have originated with Vice President Garner would provide for investigation of all lynchings by the federal bureau of investigation and a public report to congress of the findings.

There were indications, however, that the compromise might not be acceptable to the southern senators who talked the anti-lynching measure to death last year. Senator Connally, of Texas, a leader of the group, said he could not approve it.

The Texan said he was not averse to investigation by the FBI, but said he viewed the compromise as an "entering wedge" for later more stringent legislation.

The bitterly fought Wagner-Van Nuys bill of last session would have subjected state officers to federal prosecution for laxity in not preventing lynchings and would have permitted relatives of victims to sue the counties in which lynchings took place.

The compromise proposal would carry no provision for prosecution of dilatory state officials nor would it permit suits against the counties.

At any rate, the senate is expecting a vigorous fight over the proposed compromise.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
January 6, 1939

PREVENTING LYNCHING IN THE SOUTH

Congressional advocates of federal anti-lynching legislation should give close study to the Georgia incident Wednesday in which officers out-thought and out-sped a group of several hundred and saved a negro suspect from a threatened lynching.

The negro, accused of shooting a white woman, was held in Royston, Ga., by Sheriff Tom Andrews, of Franklin county and Sheriff T. L. Henley, of Madison county, but soon after the arrest approximately 400 citizens gathered and moved menacingly close to the prisoner. In the meantime, a quick-thinking citizen of Royston had notified state patrol headquarters at Gainesville of the threatening situation and Troopers G. B. Broxton and W. B. Grimstead hastened at break-neck speed to Royston, where they aided in slipping the prisoner from the crowd with the announcement that he was being taken to a hospital for identification by the wounded woman.

Instead, however, the two sheriffs placed the negro in their automobile and sped toward Atlanta, the troopers following closely in their car. They were pursued by the crowd, but high speed put the officers' cars far enough in front for them to work a clever ruse. The sheriffs and the troopers turned down a dirt road and transferred the prisoner to the patrol car, which proceeded by a circuitous route to Atlanta, where the negro was placed in Fulton Tower away from danger. Meanwhile, the sheriffs' car returned to the main highway and resumed its dash, followed by the group in automobiles. The citizens, however, soon abandoned the chase.

It was a case not only of quick-thinking and prompt acting on the part of the sheriffs and the troopers, but real courage was displayed and they deserve the loudes praise for their heroism and devotion to duty.

This incident serves to emphasize of the oft-asserted claim of Southerners opposed to the anti-lynch measure that great headway has been made in Dixie against illegal executions. The officers involved in the Royston case risked their lives to save a negro from an unlawful slaying in order that he might be accorded a fair trial as guaranteed by the laws of our state.

The Southern senators who have so effectively blocked efforts thus far made to enact anti-lynch legislation would do well to present to their colleagues the details of the Royston case, which reflect a real and determined effort in the South to stamp out mob violence.

Florence, S. C., Morning News
January 23, 1939

LISTEN TO BORAH

Vice President Garner is reported in Associated Press dispatches to have originated a compromise anti-lynching bill. According to the dispatches the compromise is designed to head-off prolonged congressional controversy, (or filibuster) on this subject. And further, it was undertsood to have the tacit approval of President Roosevelt. All of which is screwy to us.

In the first place we can't believe that Garner would support any sort of anti-lynching bill, compromise or what not. President Roosevelt has never opened his lips on the subject but his approval of a compromise would lead one to believe that he favored the Wagner-Van Nuys bill which would have subjected state officers to federal prosecution for so-called laxity in not preventing lynchings, and would have permitted the government to take supreme charge in criminal as well as civil action against the states and their citizens.

It is interesting to note that Senator Van Nuys says he knows nothing of the compormise bill, which provides for FBI investigations of reported lynchings without prosecution, but would stand by his original measure which went all the way.

In the meantime it rests with Senator Borah, republican, of Ohio, to express our sentiments in the matter of the anti-lynching bill, whether in complete or in compromise form.

Said Borah:

"I opposed the bill last year on grounds that it was unconstitutional and in the belief there is no need for such legislation because the south is magnificently settling the question itself. When you give the federal government power to prosecute state officers and fine them for not doing their duty, that is the end of state government."

What could be a more clearly democratic view than this as stated by a famous republican senator.

WALTHAM MASS NEWS-TRIB
WEDNESDAY JAN 25 1939

Anti-Lynching Law

Records compiled by Dr. F. D. Patterson president of Tuskegee Institute, reveal that there were six lynchings in the United States in the year 1938. All of them were in states south of the Mason and Dixon line. All of the victims were negroes. There were three lynchings in Mississippi, one in Georgia, one in Florida and one in Louisiana. Four states contributed to the record of which the country has no reason to be proud. There is no excuse though the record for last year is the best since records were kept accurately. Mob violence is a crime. Lynching is murder. But we know of no other crime which has been reduced so materially in recent years as that of the taking of life by a mob.

To say that the News-Tribune has no sympathy with the crime of lynching is hardly necessary. Nevertheless, we believe that a federal law is unnecessary and unwise. It is true that there was a time when, in certain states the officers of the law were not active in protecting their prisoners from the mob bent on their punishment. In recent years they have done their duty, in most instances, although no doubt they were many times in thorough understanding with the indignation animating the mob. It has not been indicated conclusively that a federal law interfering with the function of the state to govern its own affairs will save a single life from mob violence; while on the other hand the resentment awakened by the assumption that states cannot manage their own affairs will create discontent, arouse jealousy between the local and federal authorities, and create a sympathy for lynchers and state or local officers who fail to prevent lynchings which does not exist now.

"The issue here is clearly not between those who are indifferent to the crime of lynching on the one hand and those who are vigorously opposed to it on the other," says Booth Mooney in the Texas Weekly. "Responsible Southerners bow their heads with shame when a lynching blots the name of any state in the South. They do not claim that a record of six lynchings in a year is a good record. They do claim that it represents progress in the continuing effort to reduce this crime to the vanishing point. And they are justified in that claim.

"But the issue here has little or nothing to do with the crime of lynching,'" Mr. Mooney adds, putting his finger on the weak spot in federal legislation that usurps the legitimate authority of the states. "The issue is a phase of a much larger conflict—that between advocates of state rights and advocates of centralism. This is the most momentous conflict of our time, and the manner in which it is resolved will determine finally whether or not there is to be continued in this nation that system of government under which the United States has grown great during the one hundred and fifty years of its existence. Passage by Congress of anti-lynching legislation would represent a victory for the centralists. For that reason such legislation should be resisted to the limit by the South—by all Americans who wish the FEDERAL (the capitals are ours) to be maintained in this Union of States."

A distinguished governor of the state of Maryland who died a few years ago said in substance that the supremacy of the federal laws over state laws had been established; but it did not follow that the enforcement of that supremacy was wise. But wise or unwise, centralization is moving forward. It sustained a defeat in the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, but its progress suffered no set-back thereby. That, however, is no reason why it should not be retarded when possible. There is no better reason for the federal government to interfere with state officials in the prevention of lynching in a few states in the South than there is for it to take jurisdiction over homicides in Massachusetts. Both lynching and homicides are deplorable crimes. But whatever may have been the situation in the past, at the present day the individual states are quite capable of dealing with both.

COMPROMISE FOR LYNCH BILL URGED

ATLANTA, Jan. 28.—(AP)—A new legislative approach to the problem of preventing angry mobs from venting their ire on suspected evildoers bore approval today of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The group in annual meeting here, termed as a "constructive step" a compromise bill suggested by Vice President Garner for investigation of lynchings and other forms of mob violence by the federal bureau of investigation.

The woman's group, in commending the compromise bill, said "ascertainment of facts regarding lynching and other forms of mob violence and the full publication of such facts, will prove the most effective weapons in opposing these crimes.

Savannah, Ga., News
January 22, 1939

Anti-Lynching Legislation

Weak arguments were put up by Northern congressmen in support of anti-lynching legislation at the last session of Congress and those arguments have lost still more of their potency, now that the records show that only six lynchings occurred during the year 1938. Less difficulty should be encountered in blocking any measure of this character, now that mob violence in dealing with suspected criminals is definitely on the wane in the South.

Yet another vigorous fight between Northern and Southern congressmen is in prospect, an anti-lynching bill, sponsored by Senators Van Nuys of Indiana, Wagner of New York and Capper of Kansas, having been introduced in the Senate last Thursday — the birthday anniversary of Robert E. Lee. These three senators announced they would fight for its passage at this session and were immediately challenged by the Southern anti-lynching bloc, which declared it was ready for another fight on the issue. In previous sessions, the bill has been filibustered to death by these Southern members, who recognize the ridiculous features of the bill aimed to penalize communities in which lynchings occur, as well as the officials of those communities.

The measure recently introduced provides fines from $2,000 to $10,000 placed on communities where lynchings occur, all of which would go to relatives of those lynched; heavy penalties for negligent law enforcement officers; definition of three or more persons committing a lynching as a "mob" and exemption of deaths or injuries occurring during picketing or boycotts in labor disputes from the term "lynching." Presumably the Northern congressmen also consider as being exempted the numerous gangster killings in crime warfare in New York, Chicago and other cities, far exceeding the lynchings in the South.

Mobile, Ala., Register
January 23, 1939

Compromise Plan May Speed Action On Antilynching

President Roosevelt Reported Anxious To Prevent Another Filibuster On Bill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—(AP)—A compromise antilynching proposal, designed to head off prolonged congressional controversy over the subject, was understood today to have the tacit approval of President Roosevelt.

Informed persons said Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to prevent a repetition of the Senate filibuster of last year which not only killed antilynching legislation for the session but also kept Senate business at a virtual standstill for six weeks.

The compromise, reported to have originated with Vice President Garner, would provide for an investigation of all lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a public report to Congress of the findings.

There were indications, however, that the compromise might not be acceptable to the Southern senators who talked the antilynching measure to death last year. Senator Connally, Democrat, Texas, a leader of the group, said he could not approve it.

The Texan said he was not averse to investigation by the F. B. I., but said he viewed the compromise as an "entering wedge" for later more stringent legislation.

The bitterly-fought Wagner-Van Nuys bill of last session would have subjected state officers to federal prosecution for laxity in not preventing lynchings and would have permitted relatives of victims to sue the counties in which lynchings took place.

A slightly revised measure was introduced this session by Senators Wagner, Democrat, New York; Van Nuys, Democrat, Indiana, and Capper, Republican, Kentucky. Connally told the Senate the Southerners were prepared to discuss it just as fully as they did last year's bill.

The compromise proposal would carry no provision for prosecution of dilatory state officials nor would it permit suits against the counties.

Disclaiming any knowledge of the proposal, Senator Van Nuys said he was not disposed to abandon the bill already introduced.

Meanwhile, Senator Borah, Republican, Idaho, who opposed the bill last year on grounds that it was unconstitutional, said he believed there was no need for such legislation "because the South is magnificently settling the question itself."

"When you give the federal government power to prosecute state officers and fine them for not doing their duty," Borah declared, "that is the end of state government."

6222

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

Anti-Lynch Fight Must Go On, Says Radio Speaker

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The fight for a federal anti-lynchin law must go on despite any filibuster, it was declared here over radio station WNEW by Richard Brooks, news commentator, in his talk on February 3.

After citing the fact that the vast majority of senators are in favor of the bill, Commentator Brooks took up the question of a filibuster, calling Senator Tom Connally, of Texas, "chief fighter in the battle to prevent federal interference in lynchings."

He quotes Senator Connally as saying: "It will not pass, Let me inform the senators (Wagner, Capper, and VanNuys) that those opposed to this legislation are ready to carry on the fight as long as their legs hold out and their mental faculties function."

ASKS KEY QUESTIONS

Commentator Brooks cites the brutal lynching of two colored men in Duck Hill Miss., in April, 1937. The victims were tied to trees, stripped, and tortured with blow torches before being killed.

The fact that no lynchings at all occurred during the filibuster in the Senate in January and February, 1938, and that the first lynching of the year occurred after the bill was safely off the Senate calendar is also cited by the radio news man.

The record of Texas in having more than 480 lynchings since 1882 was referred to by Mr. Brooks, who asked:

"What has the state to fear from a federal anti-lynching law? What has any senator to fear from a law which will put an end to this shameful practice which is directly contradictory to the United States Constitution? How can Tom Connally and his supporters in the Senate blandly say that the states can take care of its own lynchings when the facts have proved otherwise?"

2-8-39

Atlanta Ga Constitution
January 28, 1939

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL.

ANTI-LYNCHING It must be admitted that some of the southern opposition to the anti-lynch legislation is not entirely honest. If such legislation does invade states' rights then the south cannot evade the fact it has, along with other states abdicated states' rights in the matter of work relief, crop control, federal aid to highways and in other matters wherein federal control has abrogated local rights.

Honest opposition to anti-lynching legislation in the south grows out of the fact that its origins are political, stemming from the five eastern states which can dominate the southern delegates at the Democratic convention; out of the fact anti-lynch legislation would, in some yet illiterate and uncivilized districts create new forms of lynching such as "killed while resisting a posse" and a dead body found by the roadside with the death unexplained and no witnesses to testify; that in already corrupt counties law would be flouted by corrupt jury trials.

Opposition, too, grows out of the fact that the south is doing the job; that slowly but surely public opinion is widening in its effect; that more significant than the fact that lynchings grow less each year is the fact that prevented lynchings remain approximately the same. The actual lynchings grow less. Public opinion is a stronger bulwark than law.

Bearing equal blame for some of the continued prejudice and passion are those small groups of white and negro publications which carry inflammatory and distorted reports of lynchings or attempted lynchings. They grow fewer each year but a few remain.

The southern group meeting in Atlanta yesterday recommended federal investigation to ascertain facts and report them to congress. There can be no sound opposition to ascertaining facts. They are, in fact, greatly to be desired. There are so few which come from any lynching.

It seems to me that all previous anti-lynching legislation was as hypocritical as some of its opposition; that it stemmed entirely out of politics; that it was political in content and intent, and that meanwhile, as Senator Borah recently said, the south is doing the job of eliminating lynchings.

A SOUTHERN LEADER Mr. Mark Ethridge, one of the nations most able newspapermen, yesterday made a most able defense of the principle of anti-lynching legislation.

He is a powerful speaker and a most thorough student. He, too, regretted the sources of the legislation heretofore presented but regretted the more that no southern senator had initiated proper legislation. He declared education not enough.

He stated, too, the undeniable and somewhat startling fact that the American bill of rights is guaranteed only by the federal government in 47 of the 48 states. Only Virginia has incorporated in her state constitution the bill of rights, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

He denounced the hypocricy of southern senators who filibustered againsth the bill on the basis of states' rights while at the same time introducing legislation which just as surely violated the principle of states' rights. He called on the south to cease temporizing with crime.

"States' rights," he said, "has meant the right to have hookworm and pellagra in addition to many other ills which the states' righters never mention."

In the evening he made another splendid address before the Georgia Academy of Social Sciences, an address which has been widely circulated over the nation.

Ethridge today is the south's outstanding journalist and a leader fully comparable with those of the past.

IN WASHINGTON While meetings, conventions and academies met yesterday over the nation, congress met. The vote on the WPA relief hike, as recommended by the President, was defeated in the senate. One vote was the margin. It was, of course, political drama.

The returns, as this was being written, were just coming in. On the face of things, "Cactus Jack" Garner [illegible] off something of a coup by being absent from the chair and [illegible] in it a senator who could not render a vote.

The vote will have nation-wide reverberations. It means WPA relief rolls will be trimmed; that local communities will have increased their problems of relief; that extremists will have their inning; that acute problems will have to be met.

It means even more. It is a really big victory for the "economy bloc" in congress. It means political upheavals, some major and some minor, will be brought about in local governments; it will have its ramifications in many fields of business.

It is a conservative victory, slim though the margin was; it means further strengthening of the conservative bloc. Significant, too, were Georgia's two votes with the economy bloc. Senator Russell's vote was the more significant. It may have some important bearing on patronage.

This much can be said. The WPA officials, in Washington, by their political machinations and by their perhaps inescapable waste and inefficiency, have brought much of this down upon their own heads. Their state administrators who have done good jobs must suffer. There isn't much doubt but what the political setup of WPA was undesirable.

It is impossible to determine the real significance of the result. It is, however, obvious the battle lines are the more sharply drawn.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
February 10, 1939

Lynching and [illegible] Law

IN DISCUSSING the federal anti-lynching bill, John Temple Graves, in The Birmingham Age-Herald, says that the inconsistency for the South is not in the matter of states' rights; it is "in protesting federal efforts to wipe out lynching and at the same time failing in utmost effort at home."

"The federal anti-lynching law is all wrong," says Mr. Graves, "but no one in the South, as we see it, can decently call it wrong without demanding in the same breath such state legislation and state law enforcement and state opinion as will leave no stone unturned to wipe out the last vestige of lynch law. The thing was done in Virginia. It can be done in all the other Southern states. States' rights are fine, but with them go states' duties."

It has not only been done in Virginia, it has been done in Alabama. If Mr. Graves would investigate, he would find that Alabama has an anti-lynching law which was so effective in 1938 that not a single lynching occurred within the borders of this state.

The word lynching has no legal technical meaning. As one commentator says, "it is merely a descriptive phrase used to signify the lawless acts of persons who violate established law at the time they commit the acts.... The offense of lynching is unknown to the common law."

Alabama, however, is one of those states which has made lynching a statutory crime. In 1933, lynching had been made a statutory crime in six states. Four of those states were in the South: Alabama, Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina. Georgia had also made lynching a statutory crime without defining it. Since that time, other Southern states have also taken steps to make lynching a statutory crime, unless we are badly mistaken.

The person who thinks that the average Southern state does not have a plenitude of laws against lynching is misinformed. Were more laws against lynching placed on the books of Alabama, they would merely clutter up the books. Why do we need more laws to curb a crime of which there was not a single instance among 2,600,000 people in an entire year?

Summit Miss.
Sun
Jan-26, 1939

MARY CAIN'S COLUMN

There are those who say, "How do you know whether these tales of the persecution of Jews in Germany are true? When we remember that America is publicized there as a country noted for its strikes, its lynchings, its persecution of the negroes, and we realize how little truth there is in THEIR picture of US, why is it not logical to assume that the tales which come from there, too, are grossly exaggerated?"

That is what we call fallacious reasoning. The fact remains that, regardless of how FEW lynchings we now have, America DOES have them now and again.. And while negroes are not persecuted as the Jews are said to be persecuted in Germany, there are sometimes persecutions far worse than mere bodily harm and property damage. Moreover, this country had a very pestilence of strikes, sit-down and otherwise, and there was truth in THAT publicity. Hard for liberty-loving Americans to swallow, but true.

And in like proportion, if there are only a FEW cases of persecution in Germany, they are deplorable and should be remedied. But the exodus of the Jewish people, as rapidly as they can leave the country, should be evidence apparent to even a child that something is wrong—drastically wrong. People do not give up their homes, pull up stakes and plead for entrance into another country merely because someone else was mistreated. Moreover, there are too many eye-witnesses and too many writers of pitiful letters to leave any room for doubt. God help them.

Asheville, N C., Times
February 20, 1939

Anti-Lynch Bill Drawn By Barbour

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(UP) —Sen. W. Warren Barbour, (R., N. J.) introduced in the senate today an anti-lynching bill similar to the Wagner-Van Nuys measure which was killed at the last session of congress.

Barbour's bill differed from the Wagner-Van Nuys proposal in two respects. It defined a "mob" as "two or more persons" intent on lynching instead of "three or more persons". It also would make penalties of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill applicable only in case of "wilful neglect" on the part of peace officers in taking precautions to prevent mob violence.

The bill described its purpose as: "To enforce the provisions of the fourteenth admendment to the constitution of the United States and to assure, under said amendment, equal protection and due process of law to all persons, irrespective of color, in all federal jurisdictions."

Barbour said he believed the change made in his proposal from the Wagner-Van Nuys measure "removes the last reasonable objection to prompt consideration and passage of anti-lynching legislation."

"My bill takes nothing from the states and does not attempt to supercede or override state or local governments which make an honest effort to enforce laws relating to lynching," he said in a statement.

"It would operate only in cases of 'wilful' neglect or refusal of local authorities to take precautionary or punitive measures to deal with lynching or attempts at lynching.

"To vote against the bill I have introduced would be to admit that we do not want the laws enforced, preferring to substitute mob rule for the ordinary laws against crime.

"Whereas there might have been some justification to opposing legislation which might have penalized innocent and conscientious peace officers, and make states or counties responsible for crimes which they could not have prevented, there can be no objection now.

"If a peace officer wilfully neglects or refuses to enforce or attempt to enforce the law, he ought to be punished. To hold otherwise is to substitute anarchy for the rule of law in a supposedly civilized society."

Barbour said that to deny negroes "the equal protection of the laws—and that is the effect of congress' refusal to act on anti-lynching legislation—is to nullify the constitution and violate the principles upon which this country was founded."

Anderson, S. C., Mail
January 28, 1939

G-MAN PROBE OF LYNCHINGS LIKED

Association Of Southern Women Approves Suggestion By Garner

ATLANTA, Jan. 28—(AP)—A new legislative approach to the problem of preventing angry mobs from venting their ire on suspected evil-doers bore approval today of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The group, in annual meeting here, termed as a "constructive step" a compromise bill suggested by Vice-President Garner for investigation of lynchings and other forms of mob violence by the federal bureau of investigation.

Anti-lynching legislation, a troublesome congressional subject for years, has been a favorite topic of several southern politicians in campaign speeches. Their denunciation of proposals to assess heavy fines against counties where lynchings occur brought prolonged cheers from audiences.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appea
February 19, 1939

DEFINES LYNCH BILL

Merely Clarifies Constitutional Rights, Says Washingtonian

To The Commercial Appeal:

Many citizens of both races have erroneous ideas concerning the proposed AntiLynch Bill.

Some think it will immediately end mob rule; others, that it will provoke Federal armed intervention.

Neither. It merely re-emphasizes the inherent civil rights provided in the Constitution and discourages illegal procedure by the privilege of appeal to the Federal courts for redress.

We cannot legislate morality into humans but we can make our laws as clear as possible.

OSCAR LAPIROW.
Washington, D. C.

New Anti-Lynch Bill Introduced In Senate By Senator W. Barour

Age
3-4-39

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A new anti-lynching bill made its appearance in the Senate, with Senator W. Warren Barbour (Rep.) of New Jersey as its sponsor, Monday.

It differs from the Wagner-Van Nuys bill in two respects:

1. By defining "two or more" instead of "three or more persons" intent on lynching as a "mob".
2. By making penalties carried in the Wagner bill for "neglect" by public officials or peace officers charged with responsibility for law enforcement applicable only in cases of "wilful" neglect or refusal to enforce the law or take necessary precautions to prevent lynchings.

The Barbour bill flatly states it to be the purpose of the legislation to "enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and to assure, under said amendment, equal protection and due process of law to all persons, irrespective of color, in all Federal jurisdictions."

"My bill takes nothing from the states and does not attempt to supersede or override state or local governments which make an honest effort to enforce laws relating to lynching," Senator Barbour said. "It would operate only in cases of 'wilful' neglect or refusal of local authorities to take precautionary or punitive measures to deal with lynchings or attempts at lynchings. I have based it on this principle in the belief that it removes the last reasonable objection to prompt consideration and passage of anti-lynching legislation. To vote against the bill I have introduced would be to admit that we do not want the laws enforced, preferring to substitute mob rule for the ordinary laws against crime.

Scores Filibustering

"So much has been said and written on the subject of lynching and the facts are so well known that it is idle to argue the case or inveigh against filibustering opponents of legislation of this character. It is my own thought in framing my bill that whereas there might have been some justification for opposing legislation which might have penalized innocent and conscientious peace officers, and make states or counties responsible for crimes which they could not have prevented, there can be no such objection now. If a peace officer wilfully neglects or refuses to enforce or attempt to enforce the law, he ought to be punished. To hold otherwise is to substitute anarchy for the rule of law in a supposedly civilized society.

"Every tenth man in America's world war armies was a Negro. Negroes have found their place in business, in the professions, in education, and in the ranks of labor. They are welcomed as servants in millions of American households.. They pursue their peaceful part of our population. To deny them the equal protection of the laws—and that is the effect of Congress' refusal to act on anti-lynching legislation—is to nullify the Constitution and vitiate the principles on which the country was founded. I do not think we want to do that, or that we will long refuse to give them the simple, just and necessary protection afforded by my bill."

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LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

New Federal Anti-Lynch Bill Introduced In Senate Faces Bitter Struggle, Senator Warns

Measure Sponsored By Senators Wagner, Van Nuys And Capper Will Not Pass, Says Senator Connally

Tribune
1-26-39
Philadelphia, Pa.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A new federal anti-lynching bill sponsored by Senators Robert F. Wagner of New York, Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana, and Arthur Capper of Kansas, was introduced in the Senate January 19.

The New Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper bill is the one which will be supported by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and others who have been carrying on the campaign for this legislation for many years.

Senator Capper, a Republican, this year joins the two Democratic sponsors of this legislation.

The new bill differs in only two minor details from the Wagner-Van Nuys bill, which was filibustered to death in the Senate last February. The first change eliminated the exception of "gangster killings" contained in the old bill; the second change omitted the requirement that law enforcement officers establish that they had not been negligent in a lynching and placed this burden of proof upon the plaintiff.

The new bill still contains the section holding a county in which a lynching occurs liable for damages to be recovered by civil suit in the federal court. This section is regarded as the "heart" of the bill.

NAACP Hails Mrs. FDR On Anti-lynching Stand

Northwest Enterprise
1-20-39
Seattle Washington

NEW YORK, January 13—The statement of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt that she favored speedy enactment of a federal anti-lynching bill was hailed here today by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mrs. Roosevelt has been known to be against lynching, but until her speech before the National Conference on Negro Youth in Washington January 12, she had made no announcement of her belief in a federal anti-lynching law.

Forum Of The People

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Age Herald
1-25-39
Birmingham, Ala.

To Editor, The Age-Herald:

To revive the anti-lynching bill in any form, and to begin rattling its mouldy bones in federel legislative halls is a usurpation of state's rights. The South has greatly reduced lynchings without federal interference and in the face of much partisan criticism.

There were only six lynchings in 1938, and none of the victims were taken from the custody of officers of the law, while brave officers prevented more than 40 attempted lynchings. It is far safer now, according to the records, for anyone to live out their days in the vast area of the South, with only six lynchings annually, than to try to live in some other sections of this republic, where gunmen riding in high-powered cars armed with machine guns spitting red death, snuff out the lives of lawabiding citizens, solely because their wealth is to be filched by these ranging hyenas who resort to hijacking methods that they may live in wanton ease, without putting out honest labor. That these conditions obtain, is well known, but we do not hear any loud and insistent voices being raised in federal legislative halls to put a quick crimp in such high-handed outlawry. It is not the man of color that is loved so devotedly by the advocates of this sectional and partisan piece of attempted legislation, but the entire white citizenship of the South, who are loved less.

To state the question in a few words, and squeeze the last bitter drop of juice from it, it is a piece of highly charged political expediency. The lawabiding black man is in no panic over the situation, and he is in no hurry to leave his native South.

This question is full of dynamite, and real statesmen like Senator Borah, prefer to let the sovereign states handle it without meddling federal interference. But those with high-powered prejudices are heating the political poker to thrust it in the powder magazine just to enjoy listening to the explosion, utterly unmindful of the results. I am uttering no prophecy, but I feel that I am expressing the sentiment of more than 90 per cent of the people of the South.

Belle Mina, Ala. O. L. MILLICAN.

Anti Lynching Bill Is Given Women's Okeh

Advertiser

Rally Hears Opposition By McGill, Approval By Ethridge

1-28-39
Montgomery, Ala.

ATLANTA, Jan. 27.—(AP)—A group of southern women here today accepted as "a constructive step" a proposed substitute for the Wagner anti-lynching bill.

The Association of Southern Women For the Prevention of Lynching said it had been informed the compromise bill, "has been suggested by Vice President Garner, with the endorsement of President Roosevelt," and provides for investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of lynchings and other form of mob violence and public report of the same to Congress."

A resolution approved further stated that "this body is of the opinion that such a measure will be a constructive step in the eradication of the evils of mob violence."

Shortly before approving the resolution the group heard two widely known southern newspaper men, Ralph McGill executive editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and the Louiseville Times of Louisville, Ky., discuss the subject.

Ethridge said he favored the Wagner anti-lynching bill on six specific grounds, while McGill said the Lynching problem was a "Southern job" to be solved by education and the building of public opinion rather than by legislation.

Ethridge said he favored enactment of the proposed law which would assess fines against counties in which lynchings occur, first, as a declaration of national policy—an affirmation that Americans, as a people, "do not tolerate a form of barbarism that is only a little more refined than cannibalism."

Other points were as follows:

The Federal Government owes the protection of its laws to even the humblest citizen.

States have failed to meet obligations.

It is not true that invasion of states rights is threatened by the bill. It would be an effective way of controlling lynching.

Polls have shown that 72 per cent of the voters of the nation and 62 per cent of southern voters feel that the legislation should be passed.

McGill, although opposing federal legislation, said he did not see how the Southern states "can successfully oppose the anti-lynching bill on the grounds of states rights, while willing to abdicate states rights on grounds of roads, crop relief, and other forms of federal aid."

Disclose Plan To Side-Track Lynching Bill

Tribune

Garner's "Compromise Proposal" Scored By NAACP Officials

2-2-39
Philadelphia, Pa.

NEW YORK, N. Y.—A so-called "compromise proposal" for a federal anti-lynching bill, said to have been drawn up by Vice President John N. Garner, was declared to be "inadequate to meet the situation" by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The exact text of the new proposal has not been made public, but it is understood that under the plan federal bureau of investigation men (G-men) would be given authority to investigate every lynching and to report the finding to Congress.

According to press reports there is no provision in the bill for any procedure against lynchers, against sheriffs or other peace officers, or against the communities in which lynchings occur.

The NAACP regards the proposal as an effort to sidetrack the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper anti-lynching bill in the Senate and the Gavagan bill in the House. These two measures provide for action against sheriffs for negligence and for a suit for damages against the community in which a lynching occurs.

The bills, which are being supported by the NAACP, are now before the House and Senate judiciary committees respectively.

THREATENS LYNCH BILL FILIBUSTER

Courier
1-28-39
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 26—Senator Tom Connally, Democrat, of Texas, last Friday threatened a filibuster if the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper anti-lynching bill should be brought up for consideration in the Senate at this session of Congress.

Interrupting debate on confirmation of Harry L. Hopkins as Secretary of Commerce, the Texan charged that "certain influences seem bent upon wasting the remainder of the session of the Congress in what would be futile and unnecessary discussion."

Speaking for himself and other Senators, he declared that if the anti-lynching bill is brought up "there are some Senators here who, so long as their legs will hold them up and so long as their mental faculties are normal, propose to discuss the bill as we discussed a similar bill at the last session of Congress."

Senate Receives New Bipartisan Antilynch Bill

Wagner, Van Nuys Joined by Capper; Favored by NAACP

Afro-American
Baltimore

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

WASHINGTON

Fearful of another filibuster, administration leaders, including the President, are said to have approved an antilynching bill without any penalties.

The measure, said to have originated with Vice President Garner, would provide only that G-men investigate lynchings and make public reports to Congress.

WASHINGTON

A new federal antilynching bill sponsored by Senators Robert F. Wagner of New York, Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana, and Arthur Capper of Kansas, was introduced in the Senate on January 19.

The new Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper Bill will be supported by the N.A.A.C.P. and others who have been carrying on the campaign for this legislation for many years. Senator Capper is a Republican and the other two sponsors are all Democrats.

Gangsters Not Exempted

The new bill differs in only two minor details from the Wagne-Van Nuys Bill, which was filibustered to death in the Senate last February.

The first eliminates the exception of "gangster killings" and the second places the burden of proof of negligence upon th plaintiff.

Liability Remains

The section holding a county in which a lynching occurs liable for damages to be recovered by civil suit in the Federal court remains in the bill.

There were seven lynchings in 1938, and all occurred after the Senate debate on antilynching measures, the three sponsors pointed out. They noted that there were no arrests.

Aided by Gavagan

Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan (Dem., N.Y.), whose antilynching bill was passed last year in the House, has introduced the companion bill to the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper Bill in the lower chamber.

Senator Tom Connally of Texas, halted the debate on confirmation of Harry Hopkins for Secretary of Commerce on Friday, to warn that any attempt to bring an antilynching bill up for vote would result in a filibuster.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
February 9, 1939

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"The truly kind do not encumber their friends with a help against which help is required."

* * *

THE National Association for the Advancement of Colored People wants the original federal anti-lynching bill. It is not satisfied with the compromise bill said to have been drawn by Vice President Garner. In the latter there is provision merely for an investigation of each lynching by federal G-men and a report to Congress. The pity is that the N. A. A. C. P., which is a sincere and high-minded organization, can't see that it hurts its own cause with agitation for any federal bill at all. The possibility of a smaller number of lynchings under such a federal law (there were only six last year without the law) is not nearly so great as the possibility that, as a result of the hostility and race feeling the proposed legislation arouses, there would be a greater number.

* * *

There is no inconsistency in opposing a federal anti-lynch law on the grounds of states' rights and, at the same time, accepting federal aids in such matters as work relief, highways, and farm benefits, it seems to us. These aids are given as a matter of maintaining the national economy. If it is wrong for the federal government to assume responsibility for the national economy the wrong is not one against states' rights. But to interfere with the right of a state to make and enforce its own criminal law where there is no situation making what happens in one state hurt or help unfairly another state and where the very doing of the things aggravates rather than serves a state's problem—is a most definite violation of the principle of states' rights, and it doesn't need an expert like Senator Borah to discover it.

* * *

The inconsistency for the South is not in the matter of states' rights. It is in protesting federal efforts to wipe out lynching and at the same time failing in utmost effort at home. The federal anti-lynching law is all wrong, but no one in the South, as we see it, can decently call it wrong without demanding in the same breath such state legislation and state law enforcement and state opinion as will leave no stone unturned to wipe out the last vestige of lynch law. The thing has been done in Virginia. It can be done in all the other Southern states. States' rights are fine, but with them go states' duties.

* * *

To the defense of striking clocks against the charge of regimenting time comes—with a fine bugle call—Maj. F. E. Davenport, commander of the Colonial Rangers, a boys' ranch at Austell, Ga. Every inch the soldier, Maj. Davenport employs soldierly terms but he has a heart for time's softer marches: "The clock that strikes, marking time throughout the day," he writes, "is a true democrat—a crusader for the welfare and progress of mankind. . . . It cannot live or function in any manner worthwhile without the inspiring touch of the hand of the Master it serves so faithfully throughout the years; yet once set and started in its duty it remains faithfully on guard unto the last possible impulse—its slowing voice pleading its exhaustion and devotion to duty to the last, lingering, tremulous note."

* * *

Those who send us books for review forget that ours is not a book review column. We like to feel free to comment occasionally on some book which we happen to have had time to read but we honestly are not in a position to cover one book in 10. Some day we hope to retire and read books and make learned remarks.

* * *

This column obviously hasn't room to print original poems, and that is a pity, for we get some fine ones. The only original poems we ever print are those which happen to be written by famously outspoken heads of chemistry departments at state universities on the subject of their own state at a time when that state is especially a subject. For example, the following lines entitled "Alabama," composed for "Know Alabama Week" by Prof. S. J. Lloyd, of the school of chemistry, metallurgy and ceramics at the University of Alabama:

Before the Spaniard and the Gaul
Had touched thy shores, on treasure bent,
Before the Norseman's sturdy sail
Had crossed the sea, with strength unspent,
The dogwood on thy sunny slopes
Had flashed its April screen of snow
Thy turbid rivers through the hills
Had worn their paths to seas below
Beneath the breathless Summer sun
Thy tall pines marked the eagle's flight
And down thy central valley's rim
The blood red iron sought the light.
Breathe on us, Thou who changest not,
The spirit of the early days,
The eager, hopeful, faith in life
The courage born of simple ways.
This is our land, our hopes are here,
Our children follow; give us light
That we may build throughout the years
A people pleasing in Thy sight.

N.A.A.C.P. Has 111,000 Signers For Lynch Law

Defender

9-16-39

NEW YORK, Sept. 15—With the number of signatures to petitions urging Congress to pass a federal anti-lynching bill past the 111,000 mark, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People issued a nation-wide call Friday to organizations and individuals to push the drive.

Urging organizations who have received these petitions to have them filled as quickly as possible, officials of the association said the drive to obtain 1,000,000 signatures would continue unabated.

Association officials pointed out that, President Roosevelt's calling a special session of Congress sometime this month seems probable.

It he does, they stated, the early stage of the session will undoubterly be devoted to neutrality and other war legislation, but immediately following this the anti-lynching bill will come up, because of its preferred position on the Congressional calendar.

Lynching Bill May Embarrass Garner

Journal and Guide

9-9-39

Norfolk, Va.

NEW YORK CITY— That the continuation of the fight to pass a federal anti-lynching bill when Congress convenes in January, will set the stage to "smoke Garner out on this issue," was the view expressed this week by the "Periscope," news analysis section of the Newsweek magazine.

The complete text of the statement follows:

"When the perennial anti-lynching fight pops up in Congress next session—as it's sure to do unless war upsets everything—a new backstage motive will be involved. The bill's backers, particularly the ardent liberals, hope to smoke Garner out on the issue, believing that any answer he gives will offer a further obstacle to his Presidential candidacy.

"Incidentally, the bill is all but certain to be brought up and passed in the House in early January. Then Wagner will immediately push it in the Senate, precipitating another long filibuster."

6224

LYNCHINGS - 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

Plan May Hasten Anti Lynching Bill Hearing

Daily World 6-27-39 Atlanta

Petitions Have Been Signed By 100,000 Now

New York, (SNS)—Announcement of an agreement between the author of two discharge petitions now on the speaker's desk, which will permit the Gavagan Anti-lynching bill to be brought to the floor of the House for a vote sooner, was made here by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

According to Walter White, executive secretary of the Association, who recently held a conference with Republican minority leader Joseph Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, the arrangement will permit Republicans who have signed the Fish petition (43 have lynching Bill to the floor) to sign the Gavagan petition and thus allow for a unified showing in the House behind the Gavagan bill.

URGES THE REPUBLICANS TO SIGN

Representative Fish has sent a letter to Republicans in the House urging them to sign the Gavagan petition. The NAACP reported that 140 Representatives have signed the Gavagan petition to date.

In addition to the 58 Congressmen who told the NAACP upon inquiry last week that they have signed the Gavagan petition, the following 28 Congressmen added their names to this list last week:

REPUBLICANS

H. Carl Anderson, Minn.; Stephen Bolles, Wis.; Robert J. Corbett, Pa.;; Charles H. Elston, Ohio; Frederick C. Gartner, Pa.; U. S. Guyer, Kans.; Leonard W. Dall, N. Y.; Francis Harter, N. Y.; Carl Hinshaw, Calif.;; Anton J. Johnson, Ill.; Robert W. Kean, N. J.; Frank B. Keefe, Wis.; Earl R. Lewis, Ohio; John McDowell, Pa.; Robert F. Rich, Pa.; George N Seger, N. J.; and George S. Williams, Del.

Daily World

DEMOCRATS

Emanuel Celler, N. Y.; H. P. Eberharter, Pa.; Lee E. Geyer, Calif.; John M. Houston, Kans.; Michael J. Kirwan, Ohio; William H. Larrabee, Ind.; John C. Martin, Ill.; James A. O'Leary, N. Y.;; Leonard W. Schuetz, Ill.; Pius L. Schwert, N. Y.; William I. Sirovich, N. Y.; and Thomas V. Smith, Ill.

The party line-up to date is as follows: Republicans, 35; Democrats, 50; Progressive, 1.

100,000 SIGN

6-27-39

At the same time, officials of the NAACP announced that 100,000 signatures have been received to date in reply to petitions sent out to progressive organizations and individuals throughout the country.

Atlanta, Ga.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the results so far the Association officials reiterated their plea for a concerted drive on the part of all persons all over the country to spur the drive. The NAACP is seeking 1,000,000 signatures to these petitions for passage of a federal anti-lynching bill.

Individuals and organizations were also urged to write their senators calling upon them to vote for cloture (limitation of debate) when the bill comes before the Senate for a vote.

URGE ANTI-LYNCH BILL PASSAGE

NEW YORK CITY, July 6. (A. N. P.) — A strongly worded letter sent last Wednesday to members of the House of Representatives and the Senate by the Volunteer Christian Committee to Boycott Nazi Germany, urged passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill through the House and Senate before the present Congress adjourns.

7-9-39

The letter was signed by Committee Chairman William Jay Schieffelin who is also a member of the board of trustees at Tuskegee Institute and by more than 40 others, prominent in art, science, religion, civil rights and national affairs in America.

The letter concluded: "Above all, we urge that this grave issue must come to a vote, for if the Anti-Lynching bill were defeated it would be bad enough, but the cowardly and undemocratic tactics of avoiding a vote, which were resorted to last year, were a double defeat for Democracy."

FORTY LEADERS OF NATION ASK PASSAGE OF ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Defender

NEW YORK CITY, July 6—(ANP) —A strongly worded letter sent last Wednesday to members of the House of Representatives and the Senate by the Volunteer Christian Committee to Boycott Nazi Germany, urged passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill through the House and Senate before the present Congress adjourns. The letter was signed by Committee Chairman William Jay Schieffelin who is also a member of the board of trustees of Tuskegee Institute—and by more than 40 others, prominent in art, science, religion, civil rights and national affairs in America. The letter concluded: "Above all, we urge that this grave issue must come to a vote, for if the anti-lynching bill were defeated it would be bad enough, but the cowardly and undemocratic tactics of avoiding a vote, which were resorted to last year, were a double defeat for Democracy."

7-8-39

Gadsden, Ala., Times
July 10, 1939

DO WE NEED THAT LAW?

WE are indebted to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute for a few statistics involving lynchings in the South during the first six months of 1935. During this period, there were four lynchings in all—two in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

During that entire period there was not a single lynching in Alabama. Nor was there a single lynching in Alabama during 1938. In fact, if we are not mistaken, it has been something like two years or better since this state has seen a lynching. That, however, will not deter the boys who are advocating a federal anti-lynching law.

In imposing upon us this law, the federal government would invade an entirely new field of activity, using as its sole excuse the argument that the individual states are not capable of enforcing the law themselves. There has not been a single violation of the state anti-lynching law in two years in Alabama, and yet the boys up North insist that we need outside regulation! It doesn't take much insight to determine whether the advocates of the anti-lynching law are advocating it as a real law enforcement measure or as a method of currying political favor with the haters of the South in the metropolitan sections of this country.

C.I.O. Longshoremen For Anti-Lynch Bill

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., July 28—The Dies Committee investigating un-American activities in the United States and the U. S. Attorney General's office were called upon to investigate the hot-iron-torture lynching of Joe Rodgers in Canton, Miss., last June 5, in a resolution passed here June 12 by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union local 1-10, an affiliate of the C.I.O.

Lynch Bill Out Of Committee; Ready For Vote

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 4 — The 218th signature necessary to bring the Gavagan federal anti-lynch bill out of committee to the floor of the House was secured here Friday.

The final signature was that of Representative James E. Van Zandt of Pennsylvania.

8/5/'39

This means that the anti-lynching bill will be among the first items taken up by Congress at the next session, whether that is a special session this fall, or the regular session in January. Passage of the bill in the House is practically certain.

Rules of the House requires that after a petition has been signed by 218 members, it must lie on the table seven legislative days before action can be taken upon it. After that length of time has elapsed, the bill must be brought up for debate and vote.

Since Congress is likely to adjourn before the bill can be brought up at this session, it will be one of the first, if not the first item on the House calendar when Congress re-convenes.

Representatives Schaefer of Wisconsin and Jon Vorys of Ohio were among those particularly active in securing the final signatures.

Action was spurred also by a telegram from Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, to Representative Joseph Martin, Republican minority leader. Leader Martin has cooperated in securing the signatures of Republican members to the petition.

Active also as a lobbyist for the N.A.A.C.P. was Mrs. Gertrude Stone, an officer

"We are very happy that despite the legislative tangle of this session and the important bills up for consideration, we were finally able to secure the required number of signatures to get the anti-lynching bill out of the committee," said Walter White.

"The next task is to pass it in the House once it gets on the floor, and every member of the N.A.A.C.P. and other groups interested in this legislation should be on the alert to communicate with their Congressman at the proper time.

"The great task, of course, is to get the bill through the Senate and everyone agrees that the only way this can be accomplished is by the use of clotùre (limitation of debate) in order to prevent the kind of filibuster that tied up the Senate and killed the bill in January and February of 1938.

"After Congress adjourns, those persons interested in this legislation should visit their congressmen personally at home and insist upon them taking favorable action on this bill when Congress reconvenes."

Greenville. S. C Piedmont
July 19, 1939

Fish Stresses Lynching Bill

Urges House GOP's To Sign Petition Bringing Issue To The Floor

WASHINGTON, July 19.—(U.P)—

Rep. Hamilton Fish, R., N. Y., appealed to his Republican colleagues today to sign a petition to bring the Gavagan anti-lynching bill before the house for a vote.

Fish said he understood only about 40 more signatures are needed to take the bill from the house judiciary committee. He suggested the house could be working on it while the senate was fighting over neutrality.

"There is a silver lining in every cloud," Fish said in a letter to house Republicans. "If we are to be kept in session any longer, because President Roosevelt is mad at the decisive action of the house in favor of retaining an arms embargo, I suggest we take steps at once to provide Speaker Bankhead and Majority Leader Rayburn with such an important piece of legislation as the federal anti-lynching bill for consideration of the house pending the action of the senate on the Bloom neutrality bill.

Fish Urges Passage of Lynch Bill While House Must Remain in Session

Journal and Guide
7-29-39 Norfolk Va.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Congressmen were urged last week by Representative J. Hamilton Fish of New York to sign their names to a petition discharging the house committee from consideration of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill in order that the House of Representatives might take action on this important legislation.

He gave as his reason the fact that Congress was forced to stay in session overtime because of the controversy between President Roosevent and the Senate on the Bloom neutrality legislation.

Mr. Fish pointed out that the Senate may be tied up with the President's neutrality proposals until Christmas. "By bringing up and adopting the antilynching legislation," he declared "we can provide the Senate with necessary legislation to continue its deliberations without interruption until the next regular session of Congress beginning in January.

Mr. Fish explained that the Gavagan bill is similar to the one he introduced and urged that the representatives cooperate in passing the legislation.

A total of 191 congressmen have signed a petition to bring the Gavagan bill to the floor of the House. Only 27 signatures, or a total of 218, are necessary to bring the bill out of committee to the floor of the House.

Since Congress seems determined to adjourn on or before August 1, this means that if the 218 signatures are secured in the next few days, the anti-lynching bill will be among the first items taken up by the House in the next session of Congress, whether it be a special session this fall or the regular session in January.

The rules of the House require that after a petition has received 218 signatures, it must lie on the table for seven legislative days before action can be taken. This requirement, in view of the haste to adjourn, would mean probably that the bill would go over and become one of the first items on the new session's calendar.

Representative Joseph Cavagan, of New York, has been very busy pushing his measure. He has been assisted by Congressmen Haymond McKeogh, of Illipois, Arthur Mitchell, of Illinois, and Hamilton Fish of New York.

Some Republicans are cooperating in the movement to sign the petition and Minority Leader Joseph Martin is lending his influence to secure signatures to the petition.

Once action is secured in the House, consideration in the Senate can be speeded.

Washington. D. C. Post
July 29, 1939

Anti-Lynch Bill Forced Onto House Floor

Rules Committee Discharged by Petition; Action Now Unlikely

The Gavagan anti-lynching bill, stormy issue that has entangled Congress for years, yesterday was forced to the House floor when 218 members signed a petition discharging the Rules Committee, which had had the measure piegonholed.

However, no action at this session is in prospect.

Under the rules, however, the measure will have to lie before the House until August 14 when the body will have to vote on whether to consider it. Should Congress adjourn before then, as seems most likely, Representative Gavagan (Democrat), of New York, who represents the Harlem district, said action would be forthcoming during the January session.

The House previously passed an anti-lynching bill by Gavagan but it was lost in a Senate filibuster. Gavagan's new measure provides for Federal investigation and prosecuting in lynchings and makes State and local governments responsible for death and injury due to mob action.

Gavagan hailed the signing of the petition as a victory "for the Democratic processes of government" and said it "is a great boon to the hearts and the spirits of millions of American citizens who believe in justice and equality before the law and the enforcement of the constitutional provisions of the right of trial by jury."

6225

LYNCHINGS- 1939

LEGISLATION RELATING TO

MOBILE, ALA. REGISTER
JAN. 27, 1939 J31

ANTILYNCHING BILLS

An antilynching bill, sponsored by Senators Wagner, Van Nuys and Capper, has been introduced in the Senate, and almost a score of antilynching bills, many of them identical, are before the judiciary committee of the House. The Roosevelt administration is reported to be pressing for a bill requiring only a federal investigation of each lynching, believing that any stronger measure would be defeated by a filibuster of southern Democrats in the Senate.

The movement for an antilynching bill in the last Congress was not free from political maneuvering. The House judiciary committee was averse to reporting any such measure, but a resolution was introduced in the House in 1937 to make the Gavagan antilynching bill a special order of business. That resolution went to the rules committee. When the rules committee would not act, a petition to discharge it from consideration of the resolution received the requisite number of signatures, 218. More than 65 per cent of the signatories were Democrats.

The discharge motion was adopted by a vote of 283 to 107, and then the Gavagan bill itself was passed by 277 to 120. Sixty-two per cent of the Democrats voted for the bill, 96 per cent of the Republicans. It was the second antilynching bill passed by the House in 15 years.

The Wagner-Van Nuys antilynching bill in the Senate was somewhat simpler than the bill passed by the House. Two Senate motions in 1937 to attach the Wagner-Van Nuys bill as an amendment to other bills were lost by small majorities. But the Senate in its first session in 1937 did agree to a motion by Majority Leader Barkley to take up the antilynching bill immediately after agricultural legislation at the following sessions.

When the antilynching bill came before the Senate early in 1938, it ran into the anticipated filibuster. Under the leadership of Senator Connally of Texas, the filibuster dragged on for six weeks. Unlike most previous historic filibusters, the participants as a rule stuck to the subject, although demanding roll call after roll call.

Two moves were made to invoke cloture, limiting debate. Cloture can be applied only by a two-thirds vote, but neither attempt to invoke it mustered a majority. The first cloture motion was supported by 49 per cent of the Democrats and 8 per cent of the Republicans; the second by 53 per cent of the Democrats and 23 per cent of the Republicans.

The Democrats charged that the Republicans were playing politics because although pretending to be for the bill, they would not vote to limit debate so that the bill could be brought to a vote. The Republicans retorted that the Democrats were playing politics because, with 80 per cent of the Senate, they refused to apply the pressure necessary either to exhaust the filibuster or to apply cloture.

With the striking Republican gains in both branches of Congress, it might seem that antilynching legislation would stand a better chance in 1939-40 than in 1937-38. But many of the Democratic fatalities last November were members who had supported the antilynching bill. The five members lost to the House judiciary committee all voted for the antilynching bill. The new House rules committee and the new Senate judiciary committee seem to show the same alignment on antilynching legislation as the old committees. And of the 13 senators in 1937-38 not back this year, 10 voted to apply cloture in 1938.

Tuskegee Institute reports that lynchings last year numbered six, as against eight in 1937, eight in 1936, 20 in 1935, and 15 in 1934. The sponsors of this year's Senate bill point out that 1938, unlike 1937, saw no lynchings while Congress was in session.

TYLER, TEX. COURIER-TIMES
JAN. 16, 1939 J27

Eleanor Guesses Wrong

Here's where we part with Eleanor.

Mrs. Roosevelt, addressing the National Conference on Negro Problems (whatever that is) in Washington, told her hearers she thought Congress should pass an antilynching bill.

Such a bill, said Eleanor, would be "a gesture even if it doesn't succeed in doing away all at once with all the evils it seeks to curb."

He Cited Laws On the Books.

What does Mrs. Roosevelt know about lynching, or for that matter, negro problems?

Very little.

Her statement is evidence that she has not read the annual Tuskegee Institute report on 1938 lynchings, published only last month. That report showed a total of six lynchings in the United States during 1938 (two were questionable under that classification). The total was two less than occurred in 1937, two less than occurred in 1936; 14 less than occurred in 1935.

Let Mrs. Roosevelt name one other type of crime—just one — in all the United States that can show as great a percentage of reduction.

She can't.

• • •

Just a few months ago Mrs Roosevelt attended some sort of social welfare conference at Birmingham which the South disowned. She barged into a discussion of lynching there and revealed, on the public platform, that she didn't know the unconstitutional Wagner-Van Nuys antilynching bill exempted gang killings from its penalties. Yet that fact was printed in every paper of consequence in the United States and was made an issue in the Southern press. Mrs. Roosevelt revealed herself as a daily newspaper columnist who doesn't read the newspapers!

• • •

We wonder if Mrs. Roosevelt knows that Representative Louis Ludlow of Indiana (author of the asinine war referendum measure) has offered a new antilynching bill in the House. It's a classic. Indiana is the home state of Senator Frederick Van Nuys, who co-authored the discredited antilynching bill with Senator Wagner last session. The negro vote in the Hoosier State, judging by the antics of the lawmakers it sends to Washington, must be something worth going after.

Here's a thumb-nail sketch of Ludlow's bill:

> Be it enacted, etc., That (a) it shall be unlawful for any person to move or travel from one state into another state for the purpose of aiding or abetting the lynching of any person.
>
> (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to send by telephone, telegraph, or radio, or through the mails, any communication which urges or invites any person to aid or abet the lynching of any person.
>
> (c) As used in this section the term "states" means a state, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.
>
> (d) Violations of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than five years.
>
> Sec. 2. Whenever a lynching occurs in any state, the Federal bureau of investigation is authorized and directed to investigate the facts in connection with such lynching to determine whether, in connection with or in the course of such lynching, any crime against the United States has been committed.

Ludlow's idea is to bring the Federal G-men into the case, whether or not their services are required. He got so steamed up over his plan that he wrote former Attorney-General Homer S. Cummings about it. Cummings answered patiently once or twice, then turned the correspondence over to Acting Attorney-General Joseph B. Keenan. Keenan's reply to Ludlow's most recent effusion didn't mince words. He wrote:

> Section (a) of the specific bill suggested by you in your letter relates only to those participants in a lynching who have occasion to cross a state line. This provision would probably affect merely a small percentage of lynchings —only those which take place near a state boundary.
>
> Section (b) of your bill would affect sending messages by telephone, telegraph, radio, or mail. We also note your suggestion that if the victim is taken away from the custody of a Federal officer and lynched, a Federal question would enter. There is already, however, Federal legislation on the subject, since it is made a criminal offense knowingly or willfully to obstruct, resist, or oppose any officer of the United States in serving or attempting to serve

or execute any person or warrant (U. S. C., title 18, Sec. 240). If the victim is himself a Federal law-enforcement officer, the perpetrators of the murder are guilty of a Federal offense U. S. C., Title 18, Sect. 253). If the lynchers drive a stolen automobile across state lines, knowing such vehicle to have been stolen, they may be prosecuted under the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act.

Consequently these aspects of the subject which you specifically mention are now covered by Federal statutes.

* * *

Quite clear, isn't it?

We have the laws—local, state and Federal—which are quite adequate to deal with what is one of the minor criminal problems.

If Mrs. Roosevelt will enlist her talents in a war on gang criminality in Indiana and her home state of New York or if she will seek to minimize American highway slaughter that runs into the tens of thousands annually, perhaps her efforts will be more serviceable to the country.

Sumter, S. C., Herald
January 24, 1939

Compromise May Be Reached On Anti-Lynch Bill

Washington, D. C.—A compromise anti-lynching proposal, designed to head off prolonged congressional controversy over the subject, was understood to have the tacit approval of President Roosevelt.

Informed persons said Mr. Roosevelt was anxious to prevent a repetition of the senate filibuster of last year which not only killed anti-lynching legislation for the session but also kept senate business at a virtual standstill for six weeks.

The compromise reported to have originated with Vice President Garner would provide for an investigation of all lynchings by the FBI and a public report to congress of the findings.

There were indications, however, that the compromise might not be acceptable to the Southern senators who talked the anti-lynching measure to death last year. Senator Connally (D-Texas), a leader of the group, said he could not approve it.

The Texan said he was not averse to investigation by the FBI but said he viewed the compromise as an "entering wedge" for later more stringent legislation.

The bitterly fought Wagner-Van Nuys bill of last session would have subjected state officers to federal prosecution for laxity in not preventing lynchings and would have permitted relatives of victims to sue the counties in which lynchings took place.

A slightly revised measure was introduced this session by Senators Wagner (D-NY), Van Nuys (D-Ind.), and Capper (R-Kan.). Connally told the senate the Southerners were prepared to discuss it just as fully as they did last year.

The compromise proposal would carry no provision for prosecution of dilatory state officials nor would it permit suits against the counties.

Disclaiming any knowledge of the proposal Senator Van Nuys said he was not disposed to abandon the bill already introduced.

Meanwhile Senator Borah, Republican of Idaho, who opposed the bill last year on grounds that it was unconstitutional, said he believed there was no need for such legislation "because the South is magnificiently settling the question itself."

"When you give the federal government power to prosecute state officials and fine them for not doing their duty," Boarah declared, "that is the end of state government."

HUMBOLDT, TENN. COURIER-CHRON
JAN. 5, 1939 $19

Anti-lynching Bill Again

According to a press report out of Washington, two anti-lynching bills have been written and will be presented to Congress during the present session, to be either passed or rejected.

One of these bills will be feathered by Representative Mitchell, negro member of Congress, and the other by Representative Gavagan, of New York.

If there is any one thing that the Federal Congress should not meddle with it is an antilynching law. The prevention of lynching is purely a state matter. If the so-called sovereign states have any rights left that the centralized general government must respect it is the right to try their own citizens for offenses committed within their own borders and in contravention of their own laws.

And the worst thing about the proposed antilynching bills put before each recurring session of congress is the proponents of this silly measure know they are foolish, unneeded and insulting. They are, therefore, not offered in good faith and in the interest of the country and the people, but purely as a political football, designed and intended to capture negro votes in doubtful states and political subdivisions of states. There are said to be seven Northern states in which the negro people have the balance of power, and they vote almost unanimously as their leaders dictate. Thus, we have an annual hullaballoo about antilynching.

A carefully compiled report issued by the Tuskegee Institute, noted negro school at Tuskegee, Ala., says there were six lynchings in the United States last year; that 42 lynchings were prevented by law-enforcement officers of the states, three of these being in Northern states and 39 in the South. This statement shows how very unnesessary it is to trample state rights and have a Federal butt-in on the matter.

Federal officers probably slay more persons a year, deliberately and without trying to arrest them than the number that are lynched. More folks break their necks chewing gum each year than are lynched. A pee-wee sized riot up in the Northern and Eastern states generally results in more than our annual six killings, and frequently there are riots that mean many deaths. But these are called riots, while down South they are termed as lynchings.

The South is bad, but our neighbors are worse. We rarely have gangster slayings, which are gang lynchings, and we never go out and shoot negroes like rabbits because, forsooth, one has committed a heinous offense. Our Southern lynchers are generally content to kill the one guilty person.

Lynching is indefensible, but we can use a little sense about the problem.

One of the prime reasons why we have lynchings is the lax enforcement of the laws of the country. Outraged people take the law in their own hands mainly because they do not believe the guilty will get what is coming to them. And, by the way, we are breeding conditions that may within the next few years shoot our lynching record up pretty high, and when we say "we", we are not alluding to the South alone, but are referring to all of the states.

We have too many people living by their wits and too many who think the world owes them a living without work. We also have too many low, mean people who deserve little at the hands of their fellow citizens, and are likely to breed trouble.

Bainbridge Ga Post Searchlight
January 26, 1939

NO REASON FOR AN ANTI-LYNCH LAW—

A number of Northern and Eastern members of Congress are dead-set to enact an anti-lynch law in spite of the fact that there is no reason or excuse for one. The south is handling its own problem magnificently, and even though the executive finger is pointed in favor of such legislation, the entire proceeding is one which will only bring hard feeling. The south will not tolerate an anti-lynch law. The question is rather like the case of young Willie who was asked by his teacher to make a short talk on Nero. Willie replied, "the less said about Nero, the better."

6226

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION REALTING TO

Ask Cloture Rule In Senate To Pass Anti-Lynching Bill

Globe

National Youth Conference Backs Walter White In Urging Upper House To Kill Filibuster

1-27-39

Nashville Tenn

Washington, D. C.—The securi of life and the equal protection the law for colored Americans wa the leading topic of discussion the National Youth Conference he here. Great stress was laid upon th need of adopting the cloture rule the United States as a means stifling the filibuster of Souther Senators, and thereby permittin majority rule in that body. T adoption of the cloture rule w urged as the only means of ass ing the passage of a Federal An Lynching Law, which is being demanded by a large majority o Americans.

The conference wholeheartedly adopted the report on the "state of the nation" with regard to the denial of constitutional rights to colored Americans as prepared by Walter White, Secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. The report was as follows:

By Walter White

We believe that the test of democracy in America is its ability to solve the problem of its minority groups. We applaud the condemnation by Americans of persecution of minority groups abroad. But we call attention of these Americans to the fact that oppression of minorities at home must, at the same time, be as vigorously condemned and abolished if we are to help correct injustices elsewhere. We are encouraged to note that American public sentiment is showing signs of becoming more alive to the problems of race prejudice in America as manifested by the recent conference on human welfare at Birmingham, Alabama.

LYNCHING—

The need for a federal anti-lynch law such as the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper-Gavagan Bill is as great as ever. The states have neither demonstrated ability to cope with mobs nor any honest disposition to punish lynchers. It has become manifest that without limitation of debate in the Senate it will be practically impossible to secure a vote. Therefore, failure of any Senator to vote for cloture must be considered an unfriendly act. We call upon all true friends of democracy in both public and private life to wage an active fight for the passage of this needed legislation.

We express appreciation to those legislators in the 75th Congress who so ably and courageously worked for anti-lynching legislation.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE ARMED FORCES

It is freely predicted that war may break out in Europe within the next year. It is not unlikely that America may be drawn into that conflict. Yet, in spite of this threat to our country, discrimination and segregation of Negro citizens in the armed forces of the United States are rampant. In the Navy, Negroes can serve only in menial capacities. In the Army even the Negro regiments have been broken up and reduced to inactive combat units chiefly performing custodial and personal services. Even in the unprecedented expansion of the air service now being put into effect, Negroes to date have been wholly excluded. We call upon the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of our government, to appoint a commission of inquiry, whose membership shall include Negroes, to make an examination of the present status of the Negro in the armed forces and to make specific recommendations for his integration into all of the armed forces without discrimination or segregation.

SOCIAL SECURITY

This conference urges speedy amendment by the 76th Congress of the Social Security Act to include within the benefits of that legislation, domestic, agricultural and casual workers.

WAGES AND HOURS

We urge amendment of the Wages and Hours Act to include agricultural and casual laborers who sorely need the benefits of that legislation but who are now excluded from the provisions of that Act.

LABOR RELATIONS

We approve of the protection of the rights of the workers as guaranteed by the Wagner Labor Relations Act. We suggest that the safeguards be maintained but we urge that the law be strengthened by an amendment providing that no labor union shall be recognized as the bargaining agency for workers if that union bars from membership workers on account of race, creed, or color.

AID TO EDUCATION

This conference urges that there be included in the Harrison-Fletcher-Fulmer bill for federal aid to education in the several states, specific provisions to insure equitable distribution of federal funds in those states where Negroes are required to attend separate schools.

FEDERAL TERRITORIES

In view of the fact that Negroes are notoriously discriminated against in the matter of civil rights in the District of Columbia, we urge upon Congress the passage of civil rights legislation to apply to the District of Columbia and all other federal territories.

PUBLIC CARRIERS

We urge amendment by the Congress of the Inter-State Commerce Act to prohibit discrimination on public carriers on account of race or color.

We strongly urge that all federal financial aid whether it be in the form of loans, subsidies, grants, air mail contracts, or in any other form be withdrawn from or denied to railroads, air lines, steamship lines, bus companies, or any other public carriers which discriminate in any fashion on account of race, creed, or color.

DISFRANCHISEMENT

We urge upon the Congress enactment of a new Corrupt Practices Act which would declare primary elections to be an integral part of the election process.

Such legislation should prohibit placing of the name of any political party on the official ballot in a general election if that party in its primary, party convention, or other nomniating machinery, prohibited participation of any otherwise qualified citizen on account of race, creed or color.

We further urge legislation barring the placing of the name of any candidate on the official ballot if he has been nominated in a primary election, convention, or other nominating machinery from which otherwise qualified citizens have been excluded on account of race, creed or color.

This conference hails the rapidly growing independence and power of discrimination of the Negro vote particularly in the 17 pivotal states in which today the Negro vote is potentially the balance of power. It urges upon Negro voters in these and other states, greater unselfishness, independence and intelligence in the use of the ballot not only for the attainment of specific objectives desired by Negroes but for the general welfare of all Americans.

SEGREGATION

This conference notes with alarm and vigorously condemns the attitude of certain federal agencies such as the Federal Housing Administration and the Tennessee Valley Authority in requiring segregation in federal financed projects where, in many instances, Negro and white Americans have lived together in amity for generations. We insist that this establishment of patterns of segregation be speedily eliminated. If these agencies do not desist from these practices we urge an exhaustive investigation by committees of the Congress.

FINANCED PROJECTS

We regret that Congress has not as yet enacted legislation to prohibit discrimination on projects financed by the federal government through inclusion of clauses in all contracts to prohibit such discrimination on account of race or color. Though some progress has been made administratively in development of technique of procedure to this end by the Public Works Administration, we urge Congress to extend such procedure by legislative enactment applicable to all projects financed in whole or in part by the Government.

POLL TAX.

This conference urges speedy abolition of the use of the Poll Tax as a means of disfranchising not only Negro citizens in southern states, but more than 5,000,000 white citizens of those states as well. At a period when democracy is imperiled throughout the world, the ballot remains one of the chief bulwarks of protection of the democratic process. We urge removal of all restrictions, except tests of fitness fairly applied, upon the use of the ballot by Negro and white Americans."

Walter White, Chairman

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10 Anti-Lynch Bills Before 76th Congress

Rep. Mitchell Introduces Five Other Measures

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Va.

Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Congress in its 76th session will have an early chance to consider and act upon anti-lynching legislation, ten bills aimed at mob violence having been introduced on the opening day last week.

Among the current bills' sponsors were Joseph A. Gavagan, Democrat, of New York, who offered in the House of the last Congress the anti-lynching bill approved by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Arthur W. Mitchell, Democrat, Illinois, who has also previously introduced bills on the subject. Mr. Mitchell also introduced five other bills. Of the ten anti-lynching bills, eight were introduced by Democrats and two by Republicans.

Anti-lynching bills were also introduced by Representatives Edward W. Curley, Democrat, of New York; U. S. Guyer, Republican, of Kansas; Mathew J. Meritt, Democrat, of New York; Louis Ludlow, Democrat, of Indana; J. Burrwood Daly, Democrat, of Pennsylvania; William H. Sutpin

Democrat, of New Jersey; George N. Segar, Republican, of New Jersey, and Thomas F. Ford, Democrat, of California.

The Ludlow bill would define the crime of lynching, prescribe punishment for it, and authorize the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the facts in connection with a lynching.

MITCHELL'S FIVE BILLS

Besides his anti-lynching bill, Mr. Mitchell's five other bills are:

To provide for the manner in which appointing officers shall designate the sex of the person about to be appointed in the classified civil service.

To amend the Transprtation Act so as to prohibit the segregation of interstate passengers on account of race, color, or religion.

To provide for appointments in the classified civil service of the United States of persons making the highest grade in competitive examinations and denying to appointing officers power or discretion to pass over the name of a person highest on the eligible list established as the result of such a competitive examination.

To create an industral commssion on Negro affairs.

To prohibit the President of the United States and the United States and the United States Civil Service Commission on any branch thereof from requiring as a condition precedent to the taking of an examination for a possition in the classified civil service or as a condition precedent to an appointment in such service a photograph of applicants for such examinations.

Gavagan Sponsors House Bill

Republican, Democrat Join Hands in Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.—An anti-lynching bill was introduced in the House of Representatives Tuesday by Congressman Joseph Gavagan of New York City. It was announced that a companion bill would be introduced in the Senate on Thursday, January 5, by Senator Robert Wagner of New York, whose co-sponsors are Senator Frederick Van Nuys (D-Indiana) and Senator Arthur Capper (R-Kansas).

A resolve to fight vigorously for enactment of an anti-lynching measure during this session of Congress was spurred by the utter bestiality of the lynchings of 1938, listed by the N. A. A. C. P. at seven and by Tuskegee's record department at six. The N. A. A. C. P. is sponsoring the bills introduced by Gavagan and Wagner.

PLEDGES COOPERATION

Meanwhile, from New York, where the association held its annual meeting on Tuesday, the organization issued a statement pledging cooperation with other national groups in the fight to releve the condition of persecuted minorities in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, and "to renew the fight to uphold the constitution and laws, by putting an end to the crime of lynching."

It was the thirtieth annual meeting of the association and was held at its headquarters in New York at 69 Fifth Avenue.

The rest of the association's legislative program for 1939, as outlined at the meeting included:

Amendments to the Social Security Act to include domestic and agricultural workers; extension of the Wages and Hours bill to benefit casual and other workers; a possible amendment to the Wagner Act to prohibit unions that discriminate against Negro workers from enjoying the right of collective bargaining; the inclusion of clauses in the Federal Education Bill insuring equal per capita expenditure of funds without regard to race, creed or color; and a rider to the Interior Department's Appropriation Bill which would insure equal per capita expenditure of funds on all education projects of the Department.

The University of Missouri decision handed down by the U. S. Supreme Court climaxed the Association's three-year education campaign, made possible by the Garland fund. This fund is no longer available to the organization, it was pointed out at the meeting.

A continuation of the campaign to equalize teachers salaries in southern and border states during 1939 was vouchsafed by Thurgood Marshall, assistant special counsel of the organization.

OTHER CASES

Mr. Marshall said the N. A. A. C. P. now has before the U. S. Supreme Court the Wagner, County, Oklahoma, case which involves the denial of the right to register to vote to Negro citizens in Oklahoma.

The Department of Justice is also expected to act in the case involving Dr. George F. Porter, of Dallas, Texas, who was ejected from the Courthouse in that city last September when he insisted on exercising his right of serving as juror after he had been called

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Tupelo, Miss., Journal
February 9, 1939

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"The truly kind do not encumber their friends with a help against uilinch help is required."

* * * *

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People wants the original federal anti-lynching bill. It is not satisfied with the compromise bill said to have been drawn by Vice-President Garner. Under the latter bill there is provision merely for an investigation of each lynching by federal G-men and a report to Congress. The pity is that the N. A. A. C. P., which is a very sincere and high-minded organization, can't see that it hurts its own cause with agitation for any federal bill at all. The possibility that there would be a smaller number of lynchings under such a federal law (there were only six last year without the law) is not nearly so great as the possibility that, as a result of the hostility and race feeling the proposed legislation arouses, there would be a greater number.

* * *

There is no inconsistency in opposing a federal anti-lynch law on the grounds of states' rights and, at the same time, accepting federal aids in such matters as work relief, highways, and farm benefits, it seems to us. These aids are given as a matter of maintaining the national economy. If it is wrong for the federal government to assume responsibility for the national economy the wrong is not one against states' rights. But to interfere with the right of a state to make and enforce its own criminal law, to do so where there is no situation making what happens in one state hurt or help unfairly another states, and to do so where the very doing of the things aggravates rather than serves a state's problem—is a most definite violation of the principle of states' rights, and it doesn't need an expert like Senator Borah to discover it.

* * *

The inconsistency of the South is not in the matter of states' rights. It is in protesting federal efforts to wipe out lynching and at the same time failing in utmost effort at home. The federal anti-lynching law is all wrong, but no one in the South, as we see it, can decently call it wrong without demanding in the same breath such state legislation and state law enforcement and state opinion as will leave no stone unturned to wipe out the last vestige of lynch law. The thing has been done in Virginia. It can be done in all the other Southern states. States' rights are fine, but with them go states' duties.

* * *

The right of Mrs. Frank Stanton and other copyright owners to collect fees on commercial productions of what they own, and the need of some such nation-wide organization as the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers to exercise this right in behalf of such owners, were defended here recently and will be again. Since we wrote, some of our radio friends have spoken bitterly of the fact that they are obliged to pay the society five precent of their gross revenue and that this is paid without regard to the amount of copyrighted music broadcast or whether programs are commercial or sustaining. This column does not attempt to say whether five percent is an exhorbitant amount, as the radio people insist. But it does seem to us unfair of the society to require that a percentage be paid on the gross revenue of the station rather than a fee on the cpyrighted music broadcast.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6227

Rome Ga News-Tribune
January 26, 1939

Gadsden Ala., Times
January 26, 1939

REVIVING THE ANTI-LYNCH BILL

T28

PRESIDENTIAL support of an anti-lynch bill should have the effect of solidifying the opposition of Southern representatives to this flagrant violation of State rights and inexcusible venture into legislative politics.

Senator Borah, though a Republican and not a Southerner, neatly sums up the situation when, in opposing the anti-lynch proposal, he says "There is no need for such legislation because the South is magnificently settling this question itself."

Were the issue being considered upon its merits there would be no voice raised in favor of the proposed measure. Under vigorous action by the people of the South, the lynch evil has been brought almost to the vanishing point, such incidents being far less frequent in the South than are outbreaks of mob violence in the North, and but for the political element not a single Representative would be troubling himself about the matter.

But, unfortunately, the political element will not down. On the one hand there is the administrative effort to "line up the negro voters in the North," while on the other are the individual ambitions of a few members of the Congress who have large numbers of negro constituents, whose support they hope to hold. This condition is all that keeps alive a proposal that Senator Borah himself declares unconstitutional and which is a wanton affront to the South.

But even if these politically-minded elements win and the anti-lynch bill is passed, thus doing violence to the Constitution and to the South, it will be a wholly futile process insofar as the administration is concerned. The negro politicians in the North whom it is sought to buy with this noisome piece of legislation, won't stay bought. This was shown in the recent election in Pennsylvania, where the negroes went back to the Republicans. That will happen nationally and in the end the South will suffer injury while the administration will be weakened by its over-zealous efforts to corral a vote that isn't Democratic and never will be.

Columbus Ga Enquirer-Sun
January 24, 1939

NO FEDERAL LAW ON LYNCHING NEEDED

Though we are not yet persuaded of the need of passing any federal legislation as a means of preventing killings at the hands of mobs, there appears to be a movement under foot for the adoption of a measure that would be less objectionable than the one that has been pushed so vigorously without success.

During the last session of congress, the Southern group of senators staged an effective filibuster, preventing the passage of a measure that would have provided a penalty for the county in which a mob killing took place. In other words, the relatives of the victim of the lynching, under the provisions of the measure, would have been given grounds for action for damages.

Not only opposed to federal intervention in the enforcement of state laws, the Southern senators took the position that such a measure was manifestly unfair—that it worked a hardship on the people of the counties in which a lynching might occur. They fought it so vigorously with words on the senate floor that not only did the anti-lynching bill fail of passage but the filibuster also blocked other important legislation.

During the opening days of the present session of congress, Senators Wagner, Van Nuys and Capper introduced a slightly revised anti-lynching bill. Now, however, come reports that a compromise eliminating the penalty against counties is being discussed in Washington. Vice President Garner is said to have suggested the new plan, which would provide for an investigation of all lynchings by the federal bureau of investigation with a view of making public reports on its findings to congress.

Senator Connally, who directed the talking fight against the measure last session, said he could not approve the compromise plan, and there were indications that strong opposition would develop.

Senator Borah, who is a republican but who is often right, hit the hail on the head when he said, after hearing of the compromise plan, that he believed there was no need for such legislation "because the South is magnificently settling the question itself."

Senator Borah is correct in this assertion. The South truly is solving the lynching problem. Last year's number of mob deaths showed an appreciable decrease and only a few weeks ago, a group of Georgia officers furnished conclusive proof of increased alertness against mob slayings when they spirited an accused negro from the very grasp of a crowd of hostile citizens.

Yes, as the Idaho senator says, the South is magnificently handling the question itself.

Durham. N. C., Morning Herald
January 23, 1939

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Any attempts to revive the anti-lynching bill will be fought by southern senators, says Senator Connally of Texas. And for the sake of saving time Connally says, he hopes that the bill will not be brought before the Congress again, since it will only result in tying up the business of the body, and will have to be shelved, as it was last session.

For a senator to fight against the anti-lynching bill does not mean, of course, that he favors lynching. For the bill is not merely prohibitive of lynching, it provides that the federal government shall come into the state when such an unfortunate affair takes place and take over the search for the guilty parties. This is the thing which southern senators resent. They condemn the practice of lynching, but they feel the state governments are the proper ones to conduct the search for the murderers, and are the proper ones to prosecute them when they are brought to justice.

The best defense against any such bill is not filibustering in congress but in efforts on the part of each state to cut down lynchings and a determination to bring participants in this form of murder to justice. The lynching practice has been reduced decisively in recent years, but probably not because the spirit of lynching has been replaced by a saner spirit, the desire to let the proper authorities see that justice is served. Many potential lynchings have been foiled by the prompt action of law enforcement officers in getting the prisoners to places of safety. The spirit of lynch-law was rife around Chapel Hill and vicinity the other night when a young white girl reported she had been criminally attacked by a Negro. The spirit of lynch-law was rife in Durham among certain elements when Howard Moore, the HERALD carrier boy was murdered.

It remains for our state governments to draft stringent laws providing for the punishment of lynchers and for law enforcement officers who relinquish prisoners to mobs. This would seem to be the surest way to prevent such an invasion of states' rights as this federal anti-lynch law. And it remains for the lower element of our general citizenry, that lower element which is always found in lynch mobs, to come to an appreciation of the orderly process of law which is mandatory in a democratic form of government.

Charlotte. N. C. Observer
January 26, 1939

An anti-lynching bill sponsored by Senators WAGNER, VAN NUY, *and* CAPPER, has been introduced in the Senate, and almost a score of anti-lynching bills, many of them identical, are before the Judiciary committee of the House. The ROOSEVELT administration is reported to be pressing for a bill requiring only a Federal investigation of each lynching, believing that any stronger measure would be defeated, as last year, by a filibuster of Southern Democrats in the Senate.

Newnan, Ga. Herald
January 26, 1939

Anti-Lynching Group Meeting In Atlanta Mrs. Turner Speaks At

Mrs W. A. Turner, of Newnan, will be one the principal speakers when the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching holds a two-day meeting in Atlanta today (Thursday) and Friday. The meeting will feature talks by various ministers, educators, authors, newspapermen and police officials.

Mrs J. W. Mills, of Tyler, Texas, will preside at the opening luncheon at noon today. Mrs Jessie D. Ames will preside at an executive session at 3 o'clock, and Mrs L. O. Turner will have charge at the annual dinner Thursday evening.

Other program speakers include Mrs W. A. Newell, Morganton, N. C.; Tarleton Collier, Dr. Arthur Raper, R. B. Eleazer, Dr. M. Ashby Jones, Major Phil Brewster, Dr. David Marx, Mark Etheridge and Ralph McGill.

SAN ANTONIO TEX. NEWS
JAN. 4. 1939

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ANTI-LYNCHING BILLS AGAIN PRESENTED

HOUGH LYNCHINGS have been comparatively few in recent years, some have been so revoltingly brutal as to gest that the hate-maddened mobs were trying to make for lost time. The atrocious blow-torch murders of two Negroes who were seized from officers during their trial at Tupelo (Mississippi) in 1937, exemplified that relapse into savagery. One reaction to the shocking crime was the House's passing the Gavagan anti-lynching bill by an impressive majority (277 to 119). A Senate filibuster later killed the measure—but did not wipe out the mob-crime blot on the Nation's name. However—perhaps influenced by the House's action—the lynchers went on a long holiday.

Thus, the first lynching in 1938 occurred in October, at Ruston (Louisiana). The infuriated mob evidently tried to outdo the Mississippi lynchers in cruelty. The victim was tortured with a white-hot poker, then hanged and his body riddled with bullets. Before the corpse was burned, the mob thoughtfully took the victim's fingerprints to determine whether he had committed the crime for which he had just been put to death! For Judge Lynch, that was an astonishing concession to orderly justice. The Ruston atrocity was one of six which Tuskegee Institute recorded for 1938. Only three years ago, 20 lynchings had been reported within 12 months. Two years before that, 28 were recorded; so it hardly will do to say that lynch-murder is declining. A serious relapse is still probable. Indeed, the Tuskegee records show 53 persons saved from mobs last year by official courage, vigilance or resourcefulness. Considering that showing, the bills which Representatives Mitchell (Illinois) and Gavagan (New York) have prepared to introduce in this Congress doubtless will command a serious hearing. Such legislation would have a good moral affect.

Athens, Ga., Banner Herald
January 22, 1939

REVIVAL OF THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Since the organization of Congress and the introduction of administration measures, it is expected that an effort will be made to bring up the anti-lynching bill. Some of the commentators for the big newspapers of the country are predicting that the measure will be revived, and in some instances the prediction is made that the bill will pass. However, that is mere speculation. In both Houses of Congress, the southern states' delegations will oppose its passage with all their might and main, just as they did in the last Congress. There will be representatives from other states to line up with the southern Democrats, but that element is comparatively small.

Should it reach the floor of the Senate or House, it is believed that enough strength can be mustered to fillibuster the bill to the dumping ground where it will not be resurrected this session. However, there is danger of the measure passing. Next year being presidential election year, the negroes in many of the northern states will press down on our party leaders for its passage.

The negro vote cut quite a figure in the last presidential election and the coming one will be no exception. That condition is the greatest block our southern representatives will have to overcome. But be that as it may, it can be depended that no effort will be spared to delay and bring to defeat one of the most damnable pieces of legislation that has ever been introduced in Congress.

Batesburg, S. C., Twin-City News
January 25, 1939

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL AGAIN

We see by the papers that there has been a compromise on the anti-lynching bill. By this compromise all lynchings are to be investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which organization will make a report to congress on its findings. But after the report is made, then what?

If the bureau could make investigations and pin the responsibility for such lynchings on some one and make their findings stick in the courts, they might get somewhere, for mob leaders do not lose their heads to that extent that they cannot be turned from their purpose by the knowledge that the odds are that they will be tried and convicted of such charges as are brought against them. But can the federal bureau get sufficient evidence to convict the leaders of the mob? We doubt it. And in that event, the investigations would be just that much more federal money spent to no purpose.

Failing in the last congress to get their anti-lynching measure enacted into law, the authors have introduced a bill in this congress with slight modifications. But southern senators look upon the new bill with no more favor than they did the original, and they promise to discuss it just as fully as they did the one in the last congress, which means talk it to death.

With the authors of the bill taking some of the teeth out of the measure and with President Roosevelt favoring its side-tracking by having all lynchings investigated by federal officers, it looks very much like this malicious measure is a dead cock in the pit.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
January 15, 1939

Anti-Lynching Fight Coming.

Senator Wagner of New York announced recently that he would reintroduce his anti-lynching bill in the present Congress practically without change, but late reports are that he plans to simplify the measure. Just what he means by simplification is not stated.

Unless Senator Wagner is ready to agree to elimination of those provisions of his bill against which Southern Senators inveighed most strenuously, there will be little prospect for its passage. One of those provisions would impose a heavy fine on a county in which a lynching occurred for payment of damages to dependents of the victim. Another, we believe would remove the Sheriff of the county.

There will be another fight over anti-lynching legislation, in whatever form it may be proposed, but the next bill will have a chance of enactment if it provides only that Federal officers or G-Men shall go into a community in which a lynching may occur and undertake to hunt down the members of the mob, either independently or in cooperation with the local authorities. That would be better than no anti-lynching law.

Miami, Fla. Herald
January 23, 1939

OPPOSITION to a compromise anti-lynching proposal reported favored by Roosevelt, was expressed Sunday by Senator Tom Connally, Democrat of Texas.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

6228

Mississippi Lynching Spurs House Action On Antimob Measure

Daily Worker 6-28-39

Atlanta Gaz

Republican Leader Plans To Corral Minority Bloc To Support of Gavagan Bill

NEW YORK—(SNS)—The torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and Baptist church deacon in Canton, Miss. has spurred action in Congress to secure passage of the Gavagan federal anti-lynching bill.

An effort to corral the Republican vote in the House in support of the Gavagan bill, will be undertaken by Republican minority leader Joseph Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced.

The announcement followed a conference between Martin and Walter White, executive secrtary of the association in Washington, Friday, June 9.

MARTIN TO LEAD FIGHT

It is understood that Rep. Martin will lead the fight among the Republicans to push for action on the Gavagan bill at this session of Congress. To date Rep. Gavagan has received 118 signatures to his petition on the Sneaker's desk, to bring his bill out of committee and on to the floor for a vote. A total of 218 signatures is required before this can be done. Representative Hamilton Fish also has a petition on the Speaker's desk, to bring his own anti-lynching bill to the floor. Fish has forty-three signatures to his petition.

A list of 59 Congressmen, who have told the N. A. A. C. P. upon inquiry, that they have signed the Gavagan petition includes the following:

REPUBLICANS

Harry Sandager, R. I.; Lewis D. Thill, Wisc.; John G. Alexander, Minnesota: Albert E. Austin, Connecticut; Charles R. Glason, Mass.; John C. Kunkel, Pa.; Charles J. McLeod, Mich.; Melvin J. Maas., Minn.; Lane Powers, N. J.; Karl Stefan, Nebr.; Will J. Taylor, Tenn.; Parnell Thomas, N. J.; Albert L Vreeland, N. J.; Jesse P. Wolcott Mich.; James Wolfenden, Pa.; Charles A. Wolverton, N.U.; Oscar Youngdahl, Minn.; Walter S. Jeffries, N. J.; Noble J. Johnson, Ind.

DEMOCRATS

William B. Barry, New York; Sol Bloom, N. Y.; Michael J. Bradley, Pa.; William T. Byrne, N.Y.; Lawrence J. Connery, Mass.; Thomas J. Cullen, N. Y.; Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., Md.; John J. Delaney, N. Y.; Samuel Dickstein, N. Y.; John D. Dingell, Mich.; Matthew A. Dunn, Pa.; James H. Fay, N. Y.; Thomas A. Flaherty, Mass.; Thomas F. Ford, Calif.; Frank W. Fries, Ill.; Edward J. Hart, N. J.; Dow W. Harter, Ohio; Arthur D. Healey, Mass.; Thos. C. Hennings, Jr., Mo Knute Hill, Wash.; Edward A. Kelly, Ill.; Ambrose J. Kennedy, Md.; Michael J. Kennedy, N. Y.; Eugene J. Keogh, N. Y.; Louis Ludlow, Ind.; James P. McGranery Pa.; Matthew J. Merritt, N. Y.; Arthur W. Mitchell, Ill.; Francis J Myers, Pa.; Jack Nichols, Okla Caroline O'Day, N. Y.; Donald L O'Toole, N. Y.; Joseph L. Pfeifer N. Y.; Robert T. Secrest, Ohio James A. Shanley, Conn.; C. D Sullivan, N. Y.; William H. Sutphin, N. J.; R. J. Tenerowicz, Mich. Vito Marcantonio, N. Y., Progressive.

Officials of the association announced at the same time that 232 congressmen from all except the southern states, have been asked whether they have already signed or intend to sign the Gavagan petition.

SENATE UNCERTAIN

Whether an action on the bill will be taken in the Senate could not be ascertained. An indication of the fact that Senate action was still in the conference stage was seen in the reply of Senator Frederick Van Nuys to an Association telegram this week. Van Nuys wired:

"Nothing has been done further than conferences and discussions.

97,000 PETITIONS SIGNED

A lag in the drive to obtain 1.000,000 signatures from individuals all over the ountry in support of the anti-lynching bill, was reported by association officials. They urged organizations that have received petitions for distribution to spur the campaign to get Congressmen to sign the Gavagan petition, and senators to vote for cloture when the bill comes on the Senate floor, was also advocated by the N.A.A.C.P.

ASKS ACTION ON GAVAGAN'S LYNCH BILL

7-29-39

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27—Action on the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper-Gavagan anti-lynching bill, if Congress remains in protracted session, was urged by Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican, of New York, last Tuesday.

7-29-39

In a letter to Republican colleagues he urged them to sign a petition to discharge the House Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill so that it may be brought before the house for immediate consideration.

Torture Lynching Spurs Action On Federal Bill

—NEW YORK.—The torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and Baptist church deacon in Canton, Miss., has spurred action in Congress to secure passage of the Gavagan federal anti-lynching bill.

An effort to corral the Republican vote in the House in support of the Gavagan bill, will be undertaken by Republican minority leader Joseph Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced.

The announcement followed a conference between Martin and Walter White, executive followed a conference between Martin and Walter White, executive secretary of the association in Washington, Friday, June 9.

7-1-39

It is understood that Rep. Martin will lead the fight among the Republicans to push for action on the Gavagan bill at this session of Congress. To date, Rep. Gavagan has received 118 signatures to his petition on the Speaker's desk, to bring his bill out of committee and on to the floor for a vote. A total of 218 signatures is required before this can be done. Representative Hamilton Fish also has a petition on the Speaker's desk, to bring his own anti-lynching bill to the floor. Fish has forty-three signatures to his petition.

Whether any action on the bill be taken in the Senate could not be ascertained. An indication of the fact that Senate action could not be ascertained. An indication of the fact that Senate action was still in the confeernce stage was seen in the reply of Senator Frederick Van Nuys to an N. A. A. C. P. telegram this week. Van Nuys wired:

"Nothing has been done further than conference and discussions."

97,000 Petitions Signed

A lag in the drive to obtain 1,000,0000 signatures from individuals all over the country in support of the anti-lynching bill, was reported by association officials. They urged organizations that have received petitions for distribution to spur the campaign of getting signatures. Continuance of the letter-writing campaign to get congressmen to sign the Gavagan petition, and senators to vote for cloture when the bill comes on the senate floor, was also advocated by the N. A. A. C. P.

Anti-Lynch Bill Gets Full Petition Quota

Daily Worker

Gavagan to Bring Bill Up in Next Session; NAACP Hails Step

7-29-39

WASHINGTON, July 28 (UP).—Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan, D., N. Y., announced today that his petition to bring the anti-lynching bill out of committee to the House floor had been signed by the required number of members, 218.

Gavagan said, however, he would not attempt to call up the measure at this session, but would make it the first order of business at the next session, either in January or if a special session is called meantime.

Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, greeted the announcement of completion of the required number of signatures on the congressional round robin for the anti-lynching bill.

110,000 Signatures On Anti-Lynching Petition

New York, July 21.—A total of 110,000 signatures has been received by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on petitions asking Congress to enact a federal anti-lynching bill, it was announced here today. All persons holding petitions are asked to mail them without delay to 69 Fifth Avenue so they may be presented to Congress.

WHITE TELLS OF VIOLENCE IN SOUTH IN PLEA FOR ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Journal
7-22-39
Washington D.C.

Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, was in Washington, Tuesday and Wednesday, on his return from a trip to Florida and Georgia in connection with cases which the organization is handling.

Mr. White met with the executive committee of the D. C. Branch on Tuesday evening to discuss branch affairs as well as the national program of the NAACP.

He stated that the continued economic pressure in the South has brought about a new wave of violence. The NAACP and labor unions receive reports of the beating of organizers and members of unions which are never reported in the papers of the area in which they occur, he said.

Check Voting Ambitious

Threats of violence, such as the recent Ku Klux Klan parade in Miami, he declared, are such to check the growing demand of Negroes and under-privileged whites for the right to vote. More and more events demonstrate that the anti-lynching bill is not a racial measure, Mr. White asserted, but a necessary protection to the fundamental rights of all citizens.

Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan, sponsor in the House of Representatives, stated on Wednesday that 173 signatures have been affixed to his petition to bring the anti-lynching bill to the floor for passage before adjournment. The Congressman and Mr. White are confident of passage by the House if the thirty-five signatures necessary to bring the petition to 218 can be secured within the next few days. Congressman Hamilton Fish of New York has appealed to the Republican Congressmen to sign the petition and cooperate in bringing the bill to the floor.

Senators Wagner and Van Nuys informed the NAACP secretary that they expect the anti-lynching bill to be reported favorably by the Senate Judiciary Committee before the end of this session. If the House passes it before adjournment, it will then be ready for consideration by the Senate when Congress convenes in January. It is generally considered that this would place it in an advantageous position considering the political significance of 1940.

White requested that individuals and organizations interested in the passage of the bill communicate with their Congressmen at once urging them to sign the petition and vote for the bill when it is brought before the House.

Anti - Lynching Bill Signed by 191 in Congress

Daily Worker

Need Only 27 Signatures to Bring Bill Out of Committee

7-24-39

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 23.— A total of 191 Congressmen have sighed a petition to bring the Gavagan anti-lynching bill to the floor of the House, it was announced here yesterday. Only 27 signatures, or a total of 218, are necessary to bring the bill out of committee. to the floor of the House.

Since Congress seems determined to adjourn on or before August 1, this means that if the 218 signatures are secured in the next few days, the anti-lynching bill will be among the first items taken up by the House in the next session of Congress, whether it be a special session this fall or the regular session in January.

Atlanta
Ga

Representative Joseph Gavagan, of New York, has been very busy pushing his measure. He has been assisted by Congressman Arthur Mitchell, Negro Democrat of Illinois and others.

Once action is secured in the House, consideration in the Senate can be speeded. The Senate measure is being handled by Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, Frederick Van Nuys, of Indiana, and Arthur Capper, of Kansas.

110,000 SIGNATURES ON ANTI-LYNCHING PETITION

A total of 110,000 signatures has been received by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on petitions asking Congress to enact a federal anti-lynching bill, it was announced here yesterday. All persons holding petitions are asked to mail them without delay to 69 Fifth Avenue so they may be presented to Congress.

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IS PROJECTED AGAIN

7-29-39
Atlanta Ga

WASHINGTON, July 28.—(UP) Anti-lynching legislation, bugaboo of every congress for the past decade, bobbed up again today when Representative Joseph A. Gavagan, Democrat, New York completed a discharge petition to bring his two-year-old bill to the house floor.

The measure has been deadlocked in the judiciary committee. Gavagan today obtained the necessary 218th signature to his petition, but does not intend to push the bill until next session, or if a special one is called.

Lynch Bill Goes to House Floor

Afro-American
8-5-39

The 218th signature necessary to bring the Gavagan Federal Antilynching Bill out of committee and onto the floor of the House was secured Friday, the final signature being that of Representative James E. Van Zandt of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gavagan pointed out, however, that no attempt would be made to call up the bill at this session, but he is determined to make it the first order of business at the first session in January or at a special session, if any is called in the meantime.

Baltimore Md

The bill, sponsored by the NAACP and which has the backing of most of the liberal groups of the nation has been pushed in every Congress during the past ten or twelve years and has had stormy sailing in that body.

Representatives Schaefer of Wisconsin and John Vorys of Ohio were among those active in securing the final signatures. Action was spurred also by a telegram from Walter White, NAACP secretary, to Representative Joseph Martin, Republican minority leader, who co-operated in securing signatures of Republican members.

House In Uproar Over Lynch Bill

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(A N P)—How six Republican Congressmen unwittingly threw last Friday's caucus of Democratic House members into confusion and smoked the anti-lynching bill out into the open, was revealed here as the 76th Congress neared the end of its session.

Daily Record

The caucus, called to solidify Democraic support for the Administrations lend-spend and housing bills, after the smoke of battle had cleared, contented itself with a mere resolution rededicating Democrats to President Roosevelt's "great social and economic program."

8-8-39

But, here's how the storm broke. Just a few hours before calling of the caucus, six Republicans approached the speaker's rostrum, added their names to a petition to force the Gavagan anti-lynching bill to the floor of the House. These six names were all that were needed to release the bill from its resting place in committee.

Rep. Gavagan, (Democrat, New York,) announced he would not attempt to bring his measure up for debate until next year, but when he arose as the first caucus speaker, he was assailed by Democratic Southerners who began plaguing him about the anti-lynch bill. The meeting immediately was thrown into an uproar and all discussion of the President's pet measures went by the board.

Atlanta
Ga

House Minority Leader Martin of Massachusetts said the Republicans who signed the anti-lynching petition had no strategy in mind at the time, that it was "just one of those things." He said all six had voted for the bill last year, that their petition signatures had been sought for weeks. The Republicans, he said, had no way of knowing that Gavagan would be the first Democratic caucus speaker, or what the reaction of the Southern Democrats would be.

The signers who stirred up the 'tempest in a teapot,' were: Representatives Talle of Iowa, Engel of Michigan, Andresen of Minnesota, Robinson of Kentucky, Blackney of Michigan and Van Zandt of Pennsylvania.

6229

LYNCHINGS - 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 12, 1939

THAT FUTILE GESTURE AGAIN

Washington news reports state that another federal anti-lynching bill is to be dumped into the congressional hopper in the near future. Commentators add, however, the bill will be "devoid of some features" opponents found objectionable at the last attempt to ram a bill with the same label down the throat of the south.

Of course, the truth is no federal anti-lynching bill is desirable, except in the political sense for northern representatives who hope thus to pay for value received in the form of votes. Those who seek enactment of such a bill, incidentally, are seeking something which can never mean anything tangible; which can, in its results, prove only as futile as the search for food in Dead sea apples, which turn to ashes in the mouth.

It is reported, now, that slayings by gangsters are to be included in the new bill as "lynchings." Its proponents hope thus to answer one of the arguments of the opposition, which, at the last session of congress pointed to the exemption of gang killings as proof the measure was directed at the south.

The truth is, of course, the crime of lynching is rapidly disappearing from the American scene, in all parts of the country, not only the south. It is succumbing to the only forces which can possibly prove effective, the courage and firmness of law officers, the growth in respect for the law by the general public and better education of more of the people.

There are, already, ample laws on the statute books, both state and federal, against lynching. Enactment of a new law would be but the silly gesture of passing a law to enforce a law already on the books.

It is as absurd as passing a new law prohibiting murder, in excited disapproval of a new series of vicious homicides, as though the crime of murder was not already fully set forth in the criminal codes of all states and nations.

The proposed anti-lynching law, in any form, is an extreme example of political inspiration for legislation, as well as of that universal American weakness, attempting to eliminate all evil by "passing a law agin it."

Those who seek to instill perfect public morality by statute merely confess their own impatience with the slower, but essential, road to improvement, education.

Rome, Ga. News Tribune
January 18, 1939

MRS. ROOSEVELT IN UNFORTUNATE ROLE

MRS. ROOSEVELT is rendering no service to the negro or to the cause of pleasant racial relations by advocating the passage of the anti-lynch bill and in urging that "organization should know no color line."

In urging that there be no color line in organization, Mrs. Roosevelt obviously is thinking of the negro in relation to the South. Would she advocate the same principle in California, for instance, where the color line is drawn, not between white and black, but between yellow and black?

"Organization" is a broad word, highly inclusive. It embraces society, church and fraternity as well as racial and trade groups, and the impression has been general that each element should be judge of its own membership—a view that will continue to control in the South regardless of what may be said by persons dominated by a contrary viewpoint.

The negroes of the South are not agitating the race question. They are living at peace with their white neighbors, and it is unfortunate that the question should be agitated by negroes outside of the South and that a spokesman of the prominence of Mrs. Roosevelt should be enlisted by these negroes. She means well but she is not playing a helpful role when speaking as she did in Washington Thursday or in participating as she did in the recent conference at Birmingham where resolutions opposing segregation of the races were adopted.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
January 13, 1939

FIRST LADY URGES ANTILYNCHING ACT

Negro Conference Also Told Birmingham Meeting Will Lead to 'Good Work'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP).—Urging that the rights of minorities be observed, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told the National Conference on Negro Problems today that she would like to see antilynching legislation passed.

As her audience of almost 1,000 Negroes applauded, the First Lady also declared that "the right to work should know no color line," and suggested that the remedy, if work discrimination exists, would be in "better organization."

"Organization which knows no color line," she added.

Throughout Mrs. Roosevelt's remarks, all in reply to questions from the audience, she emphasized patience among minorities in their fight for equal rights and treatment.

Mrs. Roosevelt said she thought the recent Southern Conference on Human Welfare at Birmingham, Ala., would "lead to really good work."

"There was in Birmingham an opportunity for bad judgment to create a situation which might have discredited the entire conference," she said. "Both young and old displayed patience that made it possible to continue the conference."

(Laws were invoked during the conference to prevent the commingling of white and Negro delegates.)

Conway, S. C., Field
December 29, 1938

Plans To Revive Lynch Bill Over Southern Protest

Southerners Indicate Further Filibuster If Bill Is Again Introduced

Senator Van Nuys (D.-Ind.) announced last week that he would revive the anti-lynch bill which was shelved last session by a southern filibuster.

Van Nuys says that he will confer with the co-author of the bill, Senator Wagner (D.-N.Y.) sometime in the near future. There were indications that if the bill was introduced again the southern senators would resume the filibuster. Senator Connally (D.-Tex.) predicted recently that it would never be brought to a vote.

Van Nuys says that there is little liklihood that the bill would be revised or changed in any way. As offered before, it would have made counties liable for damages to be payed to the kin of lynching victmis.

I don't suppose that we will be able to get the senate to consider the bill for sometime," Van Nuys said, "but I am confident that it will be passed eventually."

Southerners contend that the bill provdied an unconstitutional invasion of state's rights. hey said the decreasing number of lynchings made the bill unnecessary.

Van Nuy's statement came as Senator Barkley (D.-Ky.), the majority leader, said he soon would discuss the legislative program with President Roosevelt.

Greenwood, S. C. Index Journal
January 18, 1939

ANTI-LYNCH LAW

From Chester Reporter.

Mrs. Roosevelt says she favors a Federal anti-lynching law, and goes on to say: "I doubt very much if a law will actually stop lynching, but I would like to see it passed because it puts us, as a whole, against something which we should all be against." One of the reasons for the nation-wide disrespect for law today is the multiplicity of laws, many of them contradictory, and involving matters of little or no moment. The result is a hostile attitude toward the enforcement of law has sprung up that makes the enforcement of any particular law difficult. If measures of all kinds involving violation of law were simplified and condensed, and more attention given enforcement results would be decidedly more encouraging.

Miami, Fla. Herald
January 19, 1939

The Real Anti-Lynching Issue

From The Texas Weekly

THE real issue here has little or nothing to do with the crime of lynching. The issue is a phase of a much larger conflict—that between advocates of state rights and advocates of centralism. This is the most momentous conflict of our time, and the manner in which it is resolved will determine finally whether or not there is to be continued in this nation that system of government under which the United States has grown great during the 150 years of its existence. Passage by congress of anti-lynching legislation would represent a victory for the centralists. For that reason such legislation should be resisted to the limit by the South—by all Americans who wish the federal form of government to be maintained in this union of states.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
January 9, 1939

Fared Better Under Harding

the forty-eight last year six men were lynched, and e nd every lynching was a disgraceful affair. So re the killings of men in labor disputes. In many a great city gangsters sl r more men in a month than are lynched in the whole country in a year. Senator Wagner, who comes from the gangster metropolis of the United States, introduces no bill to transfer the trials of gangsters to federal courts.

No lynching was done last year, or in recent years, in South Carolina. The colored leader, Walter White, assisted by Senators Wagner and Van Nuys and the other Northern and border state "Democrats," as well as Republicans, will press their bill to move trials of lynchers to federal courts. That will kindle the wrath of Southern ruffians and chill the efforts of newspapers such as The News and Courier carried on the last seventy years, to put an end to the occasional savage and cowardly practices.

As Senator Byrnes has said, negroes now control the National Democratic party.

In every way the Southern states are now suffering more from the meddlesome and pernicious activities of Democratic administration than they suffered under the Harding administration.

Under the Harding administration the Southern states fared better than they are now faring. When Harding was president the Northern Democrats were the South's friends and the Harding revelers seldom damaged Southern people except by protective tariff exactions. The present administration clings to the Republican tariff laws.

Coast View On Lynching Bill

The so-called anti-lynching bill, which brought a long filibuster in the last session of Congress, has been reintroduced by Senators Van Nuys, of Indiana, and Wagner, of New York. It provides penalties for law officers whose negligence permits lynching.

Southern senators say they will repeat their filibuster. They say the bill is not really anti-lynching, but only a pretext, an entering wedge for federal intrusion into state sovereignty.

Their charge is borne out by the current report of Tuskegee Institute, which states that, of eight persons lynched in 1938, none was taken from custody of law officers and that in 42 cases officers resisted and prevented lynching of prisoners in their custody. Of these cases, 39 were in the South.—San Francisco Chronicle.

News
2-1-39
[illegible]

~~NO COMPROMISE~~ ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL, SAYS NAACP

Guardian
2-4-39
Boston, Mass.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27—A so-called "compromise proposal" for a federal anti-lynching bill said to have been drawn up by Vice-President John N. Garner, was declared to be "inadequate to meet the situation" by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The exact text of the new proposal has not been made public but it is understood that under the plan, federal bureau of investigation (G-men) would be given authority to investigate every lynching and to report the findings to Congress.—According to press reports there is no provision in the bill for any procedure whatsoever against lynchers, against sheriffs or other peace officers, or against the communities in which lynchings occur.

The N.A.A.C.P. regards the proposal as an effort to sidetrack the Wagner-VanNuys-Capper anti-lynching bill in the Senate, and the Gavagan bill in the House. These two measures provide for action against sheriffs for negligence and for a suit for damages against the community in which a lynching occurs.

"We stand squarely behind the type of anti-lynching bill we have supported for many years," said the N.A.A.C.P. statement. "The Gavagan bill in the House and the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper bill in the Senate represent the kind of legislation we feel should be enacted. The so-called compromise proposal may be all right as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. A plan to investigate lynchings and place the findings before Congress is inadequate to meet the present situation."

The bills which are being supported by the N.A.A.C.P. are now before the House and Senate judiciary committee respectively.

We Have a Pretty Good Idea

4

When the Antilynching Bill was being debated in the Senate, some of those opposing the measure wanted to know where President Roosevelt stood on the matter.

Well, they know where Mrs. Roosevelt stands, and that ought to give them a pretty good idea.

Last week the First Lady told delegates to the second national conference on problems of colored youth that she hoped the bill would pass in Congress. "I would like to see it pass," she said, "and I personally think Congress should pass the type of lynching bill which would be applicable to every part of the country, even if it doesn't do away with all the evils."

Afro American
1-21-39
Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Roosevelt's address before the conference also reminds us that we have gone a long way since she has been in the White House. When she addressed the women of the Faculty Club at Howard University in 1935, the AFRO pointed out that the White House had never before had a mistress so charmingly democratic.

This incident made first page in newspapers throughout the South. Since then she has appeared at a dozen other gatherings, spoken her mind and occasioned no more commotion than when speaking to a white group.

Congressman and Mrs. Mitchell have been guests at White House receptions, and last week Mr. and Mrs. Armond Scott attended the judicial reception there. The presence of colored people at White House functions isn't news for the Metropolitan press any more.

Officials of the "Wings Over Jordan" radio choir lunched at the White House, and the incident aroused no comment.

When some years ago, Booker T. Washington had lunch with President Theodore Roosesvelt, it inspired scores of uprisings in the South, so great was the resentment.

If Franklin Roosevelt stays in power four more years we might be able to get the South used to real democracy

6230

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

Anti Lynching Bill Is Given Women's Okeh

Rally Hears Opposition By McGill, Approval By Ethridge

Advertiser

1-28-39

Montgomery Adv.

ATLANTA, Jan. 27.—(AP)—A group of southern women here today accepted as "a constructive step" a proposed substitute for the Wagner anti-lynching bill.

The Association of Southern Women For the Prevention of Lynching said it had been informed the compromise bill, "has been suggested by Vice President Garner, with the endorsement of President Roosevelt," and provides for investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of lynchings and other form of mob violence and public report of the same to Congress."

1-28-39

A resolution approved further stated that "this body is of the opinion that such a measure will be a constructive step in the eradication of the evils of mob violence."

Shortly before approving the resolution the group heard two widely known southern newspaper men, Ralph McGill executive editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and the Louiseville Times of Louisville, Ky., discuss the subject.

Ethridge said he favored the Wagner anti-lynching bill on six specific grounds, while McGill said the Lynching problem was a "Southern job" to be solved by education and the building of public opinion rather than by legislation.

Ethridge said he favored enactment of the proposed law which would assess fines against counties in which lynchings occur, first, as a declaration of national policy—an affirmation that Americans, as a people, "do not tolerate a form of barbarism that is only a little more refined than cannibalism."

Other points were as follows:

The Federal Government owes the protection of its laws to even the humblest citizen.

States have failed to meet obligations.

It is not true that invasion of states rights is threatened by the bill. It would be an effective way of controlling lynching.

Polls have shown that 72 per cent of the voters of the nation and 62 per cent of southern voters feel that the legislation should be passed.

McGill, although opposing federal legislation, said he did not see how the Southern states "can successfully oppose the anti-lynching bill on the grounds of states rights, while willing to abdicate states rights on groups of roads, crop relief, and other forms of federal aid."

F. D. R. Okays Anti-Lynch Plan

Atlanta

AIMED TO FORESTALL FILIBUSTER

1-27-39

Atl. Dw

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—It was learned here on Monday from informed sources that President Roosevelt has given tacit approval to a compromise anti-lynch bill proposal, based on his desire to prevent repetition of last year's prolonged Senate filibuster, which kept legislative business of the Upper House at a virtual standstill for six weeks.

The compromise plan is said to have been promulgated by Vice President Garner, provides for an investigation of all lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with a public report to Congress. It was reported, however, that the compromise measure would not be acceptable to many Southern senators and they would oppose it.

Talladega, Ala., Mountain Home
January 4, 1939

MORE ANTI-LYNCH BILLS IN PROSPECT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Representative Mitchell, Illinois democrat, the only negro member of congress, and Representative Gavagan, New York democrat, have anti-lynching bills ready to drop in the hopper. Both measures have the same objective—invoking federal authority against lynching.

The house judiciary committee approved Mitchell's bill in the last congress, but the rules committee bottled it up. Then Gavagan forced the rules committee to bring his bill to the floor and it passed.

Anti-lynching legislation subsequently got to the senate floor but Southerners filibusted it to death.

Mitchell said he was confident he could obtain judiciary committee approval of his bill again and would ask for early action. He added, however, that anti-lynching legislation was less urgent than formerly.

"No major crime has been reduced with such rapidity," he said. "We have been making wonderful progress. There have been, I believe, about eight lynchings this year among 130,000,000 people whereas there were 231 40 years ago when the population was only 65,000,000."

MRS. ROOSEVELT STEPS OUT ON A LIMB

At a meeting in Washington the other day Mrs. Roosevelt was quoted as follows:

"I doubt very much if that law (the proposed federal anti-lynching bill) would do away with lynching, but I would like to see it passed because it would put us on record against something we all should be against. . . . Even if it does not succeed at once in doing away with all the evils we would like to see done away with, I think it would be a good thing."

Advertiser

Why would it be a good thing if it did not accomplish what it is supposed to accomplish, namely, the prevention of lynching? Proponents of the bill, like Mrs. Roosevelt, admit that the bill would do very little good. Opponents of the bill like The Advertiser, argue that the bill could very easily do a great deal of harm by stirring up old antipathies and fanning the flames of race hatred. If Mrs. Roosevelt is correct, why should the risk which so many people see be taken?

1-5-39

Montgomery Adv.

Most persons in any position of leadership and **influence** are already against lynching; they are already committed in the fight to prevent mob murder.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
February 8, 1939

THAT ANTI-LYNCH BILL

During the last session of Congress Senator Wagner, of New York, introduced an anti-lynch bill. The provisions of the bill were mainly directed at the southern states. It carried with it penalties on every county where a lynching occurred, requiring the payment of certain sums to the families of the victims. This bill was fought by the senators from the South, and after days of filibuster, it was set aside for that session. Now, however, an attempt is being made to revive it and bring the bill to a vote. Should the supporters of this measure succeed in their efforts to enact it into law, it will be purely class legislation and directed solely at one section of the nation.

If the number of murders committed in the large cities of the east and west were compiled under the right title, the number of such lynchings would double and thribble the number of lynchings that actually occur in this section of the country. However, as we have already said, the proposed bill is directed at the southern states and purely legislation that we do not believe would prove constitutional, if it should ever become a law.

In discussing the bill from an impartial point of view, the Charleston News and Courier, says:

"The double assassination had all the marks of a gang affair," the New York Herald-Tribune comments on the killing of "Louis Cohen" and "Irving Friedman." "Gang" is another name for "mob," we believe, and "gang murders," or "lynchings," are not uncommon in New York. Might not they be prevented by a federal law imposing a fine upon New York county when a crime of the kind is committed (the fine being proportioned to the ability of the county to pay), and providing for the payment of damages to the family or nearest of kin of the victim of the lynching? The News and Courier respectfully submits the question to Senator "Bob" Wagner."

The defeat of the bill in the last Congress was due, in a great measure to the activities and able fight made by Senator George, of this state. To him is due great credit, and while he had the aid of other southern senators, his leadership and exposure of the real purpose of the bill led to its sidetracking and it was carried over until this session. Just what will be the results, should it be reintroduced, is a matter of conjecture, but in our belief, the bill will not pass.

McMinnville, Tenn. Standard
February 3, 1939

ANTI-LYNCH LAW.

Prolonged controversy over anti-lynching legislation may be averted by a compromise to provide for investigation of all lynchings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with a public report to Congress of the findings.

Rock Hill, S. C. Herald
February 11, 1939

Lawless

We agree with the Spartanburg Herald that the outrage in Goldsboro, N. C., this week will give added support to those favoring an anti-lynching bill. The mayor of Goldsboro was knocked down by two negroes last Saturday and after being arrested the negroes were taken from jail and into the country where they were beaten by white men. The Spartanburg editor comments in a manner that meets our approval, as follows:

> According to a message from Goldsboro, N. C., three white men entered the city jail, overawed the police officers in charge, demanded cell keys and got them, and removed two negro prisoners. The latter were taken to the country where they were flogged by five men. They were then released.
>
> An anti-lynching bill is pending in Congress and efforts have been made by Vice-President Garner and other southern representatives to eliminate certain features that would be unjust to the South. The incident at Goldsboro cannot be classed as a lynching, but it was made of the same cloth. It was a mistaken exhibition of law yielding to lawlessness. It will be used by sponsors of federal anti-lynching legislation. Why do we permit such things in the South?

We know the best folks of Goldsboro decry such actions and a grand jury will doubtless bring the guilty to justice.

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
February 10, 1939

EDITORIAL COMMENT

From Other State Papers

THAT ANTI-LYNCH BILL

During the last session of Congress, Senator Wagner, of New York introduced an anti-lynch bill. The provisions of the bill were mainly directed at the southern states. It carried with it penalties on every county where a lynching occurred requiring the payment of certain sums to the families of the victims. This bill was fought by the senators from the South, and after days of filibuster, it was set aside for that session. Now, however, an attempt is being made to revive it and bring the bill to a vote. Should the supporters of this measure succeed in their efforts to enact it into law, it will be purely class legislation and directed solely at one section of the nation.

If the number of murders committed in the larger cities of the east and west were compiled under the right title, the number of such lynchings would double and thribble the number of lynchings that actually occur in this section of the coun However, as we have already said, the proposed bill is directed at the southern states and purely legislation that we do not believe would prove constitutional, if it should ever become a law.

In discussing the bill from an impartial point of view, the Charleston News and Courier says:

"The double assassination had all the marks of a gang affair," the New York Herald-Tribune comments on the killing of "Louis Cohen" and "Irving Friedman." "Gang" is another name for "mob", we believe, and "gang murders," or "lynchings," are not uncommon in New York. Might not they be prevented by a federal law imposing a fine upon New York county when a crime of the kind is committed (the fine being proportioned to the ability of the county to pay), and providing for the payment of damages to the family or nearest of kin of the victim of the lynching? The News and Courier respectfully submits the question to Senator "Bob" Wagner."

The defeat of the bill in the last Congress was due, in a great measure to the activities and able fight made by Senator George, of this state. To him is due great credit, and while he had the aid of other southern senators, his leadership and exposure of the real purpose of the bill led to its sidetracking and it was carried over until this session. Just what will be the results, should it be reintroduced, is a matter of conjecture, but in our belief, the bill will not pass.

—Athens Banner-Herald.

Alexander City, Ala., Outlook
February 2, 1939

THE SAME OLD STORY

An old battle is starting anew. In the Congress that has recently convened, the first mention of a revival of the anti-lynching bill was met by hot retorts from Southern Senators, recalling the last session of the federal legislative body when channels of the Congress were clogged for days as opposition forces waged a successful filibuster which resulted in the eventual sidetracking of the bill.

A Texas Senator when a statement was made in behalf of the anti-lynching measure last week, arose to say vehemently that the Senators would "fight as long as their legs would hold them up and their mental facilities hold out. I can tell you right now, that it's not going to pass."

We hope the gentleman from Texas is right in his prediction. Every instance of mob rule is a disgrace to the locality where it occurs, and as long as such events continue to take place, we know that barbarism has not been entirely banished from our land. But lynchings constitute a distinctly Southern problem. Of six persons lynched in 1938, all were in Southern states. Practically all instances of officers preventing lynchings were in Southern states.

Even if states have been negligent in solving the problem for themselves, the job of putting an end to mob rule is not one for the national Congress, largely because that body as a whole does not understand the situation, is apt to pass an anti-lynching law that would be unreasonable and unfair and do more harm than good.

Dunjee Takes White Editor To Task

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Persons who see in the penalties set up in the Wagner-Van Nuys-Gavagan Anti-lynching bill, which lost out in the last Congress, a parallel to the Nazi hostage payments levied on Jews in Germany, and therefore a just cause for fighting the bill, are setting up a "poorly drawn" thesis that won't hold water, according to Roscoe Dunjee, editor of the Oklahoma Black Dispatch.

Mr. Dunjee's statement, which appeared in editorial form in his own paper, was a reply to an editorial view expressed by The Oklahoman, a local daily published here. The Oklahoman reprinted the Dispatch editorial in full, in its own columns on Monday, December 12.

Editor Dunjee said:

"Surely the Oklahoman would not argue that the mob is superior in its force and power to the city, county and state government wherein the mob commits lawless acts. The failure of American communities to apprehend, prosecute and convict mobs, proves colluson and guilt on the part of entire community life. On the other hand there is no better example of the present-day Germn complex and ideology than in the American attitude toward its Negro citizens."

Murfreesboro, Tenn., News-Journal
February 21, 1939

Barbour Urges Antilynch Laws

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21—(AP)—Senator Barbour, (Rep. N. J.) proposed yesterday antilynching legislation similar to that offered previously by Senators Wagner(Dem., N. Y.) Van Nuys (Dem., Ind.) and Capper (Rep., Kan.).

An antilynching measure led to a six-weeks' filibuster by Southern senators in the last session of Congress.

The Barbour bill would make any state or local officer who wilfully neglected to protect a person from lynching liable to five years' imprisonment and $5,000 fine. Local communities would be liable for damages up to $10,000, which would be paid to the families of lynching victims.

6231

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
January 29, 1939

New Anti-Lynching Measures

What disturbs us about the new anti lynching measures now milling in the congressional hopper, is not the degree to which they would lay profane hands on the States' rights holy of holies, nor the possibility that, if passed, they would impede rather than expedite the extirpation of the lynching disgrace, but the danger that they may lead to another time-killing filibuster in a Congress that can not kill much time without risking damage to its legislative output.

Upon this Congress is imposed the burden of importing some daylight into the railway darkness; of condensing and co-ordinating the sprawling Federal relief agencies; of putting on an orderly footing an arms-expansion program that betrays many symptoms of elephantiasis; of re-examining and possibly amending recent neutrality legislation; of altering the scope, benefits and financial provisions of the Social Security Act; of re-examining the Federal tax structure, including the President's recommendations for legislation to bring government salaries and incomes from government securities under reciprocal State and Federal taxation.

These are some of the most important items on this session's program. There are many others. Their mature consideration will require all the time that Congress can give to them between now and the summer adjournment. To superimpose on this study of an exceptionally important legislative agenda a snarling, time-wasting filibuster like the six-week vacation from orderly debate that the Senate took in 1938 would not be in the public interest.

We rejoice that the anti-lynching bills, so-called, are again before Congress. They belong on the legislative firing line as long as a lynching cancer survives that refuses to yield to State therapy. They help to advertise the presence of the cancer and to stimulate local and State efforts to achieve its eradication without Federal help.

We believe further, that there is both moral and legal justification under the "due process" guarantee of the Constitution, for Federal intervention (where State intervention is wantonly withheld) to punish those who conspire to withhold this guarantee from human life, and that this kind of intervention would no more be resented by the States than is the similar Federal intervention that is exercised, without challenge from the States, to prevent the evasion of the "due process" requirement in regard to property.

Believing this, we would like to see a reasonably conditioned, experimental law passed which would authorize the Federal government to intervene in connection with lynching crimes attended by demonstrable official culpability, or official indifference to the tracking down of the criminals. Bu we do not regard the need for such a law as so pressing that it is worth killing six weeks of the House or Senate's time to find out if it is possible to bring it to a vote.

MIAMI FLA NEWS
MONDAY JAN 23 1939

Year Of Grace

The new anti-lynching bill about to be offered is apparently far less drastic than the one the Southern senators filibustered to death last session. There would be no federal punishment of a sheriff who let a mob take a prisoner away from him. More fundamental an improvement, there would be no mass fining of taxpayers, innocent and guilty, for a crime committed by a mob perhaps of the smallest proportions.

The present measure provides for an investigation of each lynching by the FBI and a public report to congress. This seeks to stop lynching by shaming the lynchers, rather than by submitting them to criminal penalties. It might be an effective method.

Nevertheless, we feel it could be filed for future reference. Since last winter, when there really did seem need of some sort of federal intervention, there has been a happy change in the situation. The president of Tuskegee Institute, in his report for 1938, ~~has announced~~ there were only three lynchings during the year, and in no case was the victim taken from officers.

Of course as long as there is one lynching a year the nation will rightly shudder. Yet the reduction to three in 12 months in a section which once saw more than 200 lynchings annually, is such a startling improvement that we believe the South deserves a year or two of grace in which to go further in solving its own problem. If there is a backsliding, then it will be time to consider again the question of federal intervention.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
January 13, 1939

There is considerable talk in Congress of a revival of the anti-lynching bill. Southern members of the House and Senate are certain to do everything possible to defeat the measure, but some well informed commentators do not believe it can be kept from passage very much longer.

Sandersville Ga., Progress
January 19, 1939

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has expressed her approval of the anti-lynching bill. This bill applies only to mobs in the southern states, and exempts the same element in the northern states where racketeers and gangsters commit ten times more unlawful acts. The only way to stop lynching is for brutes in human form to stop committing crimes that provoke such acts.

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
February 3, 1939

Plain-speaking Praiseworthy

Were President Roosevelt to speak openly and in clear tones his opinion of the so-called anti-lynching bill and the proposal that a uniform federal suffrage law be enacted by congress, The News and Courier again would praise his courage and candor. Why is the president silent on the subjects that most concern the Southern states?

York, S. C., Yorkville Enquirer
January 13, 1939

Three anti-lynching bills are being prepared for the consideration of congress. The National Association for the Advancement of ~~Colored~~ People, is sponsoring one prepared by Congressman Gavagan of New York; Arthur W. Mitchell, negro congressman from Chicago, has another, and Senator Wagner of New York, will again present the bill upon which he collaborated with Senator Van Nuys, Democrat of Indiana.

SCRANTON PA TRIBUNE
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25 1939

Anti-Lynching Bills Again

An anti-lynching bill, sponsored by Senators Wagner, Van Nuys, and Capper, has been introduced in the Senate, and almost a score of anti-lynching bills, many of them identical, are before the Judiciary Committee of the House. The Roosevelt administration is reported to be pressing for a bill requiring only a federal investigation of each lynching, believing that any stronger measure would be

ed, as last year, by a filibuster of Southern Democrats in the Senate.

~~With the striking Republican~~ gains in both branches of Congress, it might be that anti-lynching legislation would stand a better chance in 1939-40 than in 1937-38. But many of the Democratic fatalities last November were of members who had supported the anti-lynching bill. The five members lost to the House Judiciary Committee all voted for the anti-lynching bill.

Tuskegee Institute reports that lynchings last year numbered 6, as against 8 in 1937, 8 in 1936, 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934. The sponsors of this year's Senate bill point out that 1938, unlike 1937, saw no lynchings while Congress was in session.

Drakes Br'ch, Va., Charlotte Gazette
January 26, 1939

About half of the session of the Senate will be consumed in an attempt to put through the anti-lynching bill sponsored by two or three senators who have a large Negro consituency and likewise whose States are the very haven for gang killings and other crimes of the basest sort. This handful of Senators are playing to the grandstand; they are not sincere in imposing a load on the South, and it is about time the backers of these Senators got on to them. No one believes in lawlessness, but when a sectional issue is made of it, it can be depended upon that the conservative element of the law-making body will take care of it.

Senate Gets New Anti-Lynch Bill

Journal and Guide

WASHINGTON — A new anti-lynching bill designated by its author, Republican Senator W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey, to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, was introduced in the Senate Monday.

In defending the status of the bill, Senator Barbour pointed out that it does not "supersede or override state or local governments," but has more teeth than the Wagner-Van Nuys bill in two respects.

2-25-39

Whereas, the Wagner-Van Nuys bill defines "three or more persons" intent on lynching as a "mob," the Barbour bill narrows down to "two or more persons."

Norfolk Va

Penalties in the Barbour bil bridges that of the Wagner-Van Nuys in that in the former, enforcement is applicable only in cases of "wilful" neglect or refusa of public officials or peace officer charged with being responsible fo law to enforce the law or tak necessary precautions to preven lynchings. The latter bill state its penalties in case of "neglect" by law enforcement officers.

STATES PROVISIONS

The Barbour bill flatly states that its provisions under the Fourteenth Amendment is to assure equal protection and due process of law to all persons, irrespective o color in all federal jurisdictions.

"My bill takes nothing from the states and does not attempt to supersede or override state or local governments which make an honest effort to enforce laws relating to lynching," Senator Barbou said.

"It would operate only in cases of 'wilful' neglect or refusal of local authorities to take precautionary or punitive measures to dea with lynchings or attempts at lynching. I have based it on this principle in the belief that it removes the last reasonable objection to prompt consideration and passage of anti-lynching legislation.

"To vote against the bill I have introduced would be to admit that we do not want the laws enforced, preferring to substitute mob rule for the ordinary laws against crime.

REMOVES OBJECTION

"So much has been said and written on the subject of lynching and the facts are so well known that it is idle to argue the case or inveigh against filibustering opponents of legislation of this character. It is my own thought in framing my bill that whereas there might have been some justification for opposing legislation which might have penalized innocent and conscientious peace officers, and make states or counties responsible for crimes which they could not have prevented there can be no such objection now.

"If a peace officer wilfully neglects or refuses to enforce or attempt to enforce the law, he ought to be punished. To hold otherwise is to substitute anarchy for the rule of law in a supposedly civilized society.

"Every tenth man in America's world war armies was a Negro. Negroes have found their place in business, in the professions, in education and in the ranks of labor. They are welcomed as servants in millions of American households. They pursue their peaceful pursuits as an accepted part of our population. To deny them the equal protection of the laws, and that is the effect of Congress' refusal to act on anti-lynching legislation, is to nullify the Cosstitution and vitiate the principles on which the country was founded. I do not think we want to do that, or that we will long refuse to give them the simple, just and necessary protection afforded by my bill."

WITNESSES SUGGESTED ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A list of distinguished white and colored witnesses who might be invited to testify in favor of a federal anti-lynching bill was suggested to the sponsors of the legislation this week by the NAACP.

Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, Frederick Van Nuys, of Indiana, and Arthur Capper, of Kansas were supplied the list by Walte White, NAACP secretary.

The list includes white and colored people, men and women, from the North and the South.

Their testimony, it was said would touch not only upon the crime of lynching itself, but upon the social and economic consequences of the unchecked practice of lynching.

The date for the hearing on the anti-lynching bill in the Senate has not been set as yet. It is expected that a sub-committee of the Senate judiciary committee will be named in a few days and that a date for the hearing will be set soon after.

Spartanburg S. C. Herald
February 21, 1939

Another Trouble-Maker

Another anti-lynching bill has been presented to Congress by Senator Barbour of New Jersey. It is somewhat different from the Wagner-Van Nuys bill that caused a furor in the last session.

Senator Barbour is one of those men in Congress who cannot or will not understand conditions in the South. They know nothing of the true relation that exists between the two races in southern states. They become terribly agitated when a mob destroys a life in the South but their agitation is nothing compared to the sincere regret of the best people of the southern states.

In New York, Indiana and New Jersey the states from which these anti-lynch leaders come, there are crimes and criminals to which they might devote their attentions before attempting to remove the mote from the eye of the South.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
February 22, 1939

Anti-Lynching Law Proposed By Barbour

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (AP)—Senator Barbour (R-NJ) proposed today anti-lynching legislation similar to that offered previously by Senators Wagner (D-NY), Van Nuys (D-Ind), and Capper (R-Kas).

An anti-lynching measure led to a six-week filibuster by Southern senators in the last session of Congress.

The Barbour bill would make any state or local officer who wilfully neglected to protect a person from lynching liable to five years' imprisonment and $5,000 fine. Local communities would be liable for damages up to $10,000, which would be paid to the families of lynching victims.

BARBOUR INTRODUCES ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Times

Would Fine Counties Only if 'Willful' Neglect Is Shown

2-21-39

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Senator Barbour today introduced an anti-lynching bill differing in two respects from the Wagner-Van Nuys bill which was killed by a filibuster in the last session of Congress.

New York

The measure defines as a "mob" two or more persons intent on lynching, instead of three or more, and it differs also in that it makes fines against counties where lynchings occur applicable only on "willful" neglect or refusal of county enforcement officers to take the necessary preventive measures.

"My bill takes nothing from the States and does not attempt to supersede or override State or local governments which make an honest effort to enforce laws relating to lynching," Senator Barbour said. "I believe this removes the last reasonable objection to prompt consideration and passage of anti-lynching legislation.

"To vote against this bill would be to admit that we do not want the laws enforced, preferring to substitute mob rule for the ordinary laws against crime."

The bill states its purpose as to "enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution and to assure, under said amendment, equal protection and due process of law to all persons, irrespective of color, in all Federal jurisdictions."

Mr. Barbour said that every tenth man in the country's World War armies was a Negro.

Charlotte, N. C., News
April 21, 1939

Anti-Lynch Bill Urged

Interracial Group Makes Report

Sponsorship of an anti-lynching bill and of a home for delinquent Negro girls was stressed in the annual report of the North Carolina Commission on Interracial Co-operation, which closed a meeting here last night in agreement that the white and Negro races were "marching together" more closely than ever before.

The Rt. Rev. Edwin A. Penick, state chairman, read the report. Legislation will be sought for the report's two major objectives and the commission will not cease its efforts, it was decided, until they are achieved.

Last night's speaker was Lieut-Gov. Wilkins P. Horton, who spoke in general about Negro problems, praised their unusual educational advancements.

Dr. W. A. Stanbury, pastor of Central Methodist Church, Asheville, presided. Dean L. S. Cozart of Barber-Scotia College, discussed "Going Forward Together," theme of the conference. More than 300 delegates, the majority Negroes, represented 50 North and South Carolina cities.

The conference agreed that low wages and greedy landlords with political influence are responsible for deplorable living conditions and the unhealthy "shotgun" or "gun-barrel" houses found in every Southern city.

6232

LYNCHINGS- 1939
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

nti-Lynch ill Worries epresentative

Daily World
10-6-39

AMERICUS, Ga. —(SNS)— The pending drive to force the anti-lynching bill onto the floor of the house of representatives at the present special session Thursday had caused Congressman Stephen Pace, of the third Georgia district to plan to return to his Washington office late this week.

Congressman Pace said that "there is in the house a petition, signed by more than one-half of the members, to take the anti-lynch bill from the judiciary committee. In view of this movement actively on foot now by Representative Gavagan, of New York City, Harlem district, I feel it necessary that I be in the house Monday."

He declared that this "highly controversial measure" should not be considered at this time by the house.

10-6

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ackers Of Anti-Lynching Bill Set

New York, Sept. 22—In reply to inquiries from members of Congress and newspapers as to the position of supporters of the anti-lynching bill in relation to neutrality and other legislation dealing with the nationa welfare in the light of the war in Europe, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, coordinating agency of organizations and individuals supporting federal anti-lynching legislation, made the following statement at its national office in New York City today: 9-28-39

"Supporters of the anti-lynching bill are more convinced than ever of the necessity for the enactment of the law to end this horrible practice. Because of their apprehension about the fate of democracy in America, they are particularly concerned with legislation to be considered by the special session of Congress dealing with the war in Europe is agreed to, then, of course, supporters of the anti-lynching bill will submit to the judgement of the Congress and wait until the regular session in January.

Seattle Wash.

"If, however, the Congress does not agree to limit the special session to consideration of war legislation, supporters of the anti-lynching bill who have worked for it for so many years will most certainly not jeopardize the present position of the bill which has the highest parliamentary status in the House of Representatives.

"It is our conviction that before the United States sets forth again directly or indirectly, to preserve democracy beyond th borders of the United States it must wipe out such undemocratic practices as lynching in the United States. Negroes, who are the chief sufferers from lynching, will be among those American citizens callen upon once again to fight for democracy. Congress must see to it that there is no repetition of what took place during the first world war when relatives of Negro soldiers, fighting in France for Democracy, were seized by mobs

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Miami, Fla. Herald
September 25, 1939

Anti-Lynching, of All Things

LAST week The Herald pointed to the likelihood that the congress would not find itself busy enough with the neutrality legislation and probably would be taken with the itch to tackle other legislation.

We never thought, however, that the Gavagan anti-lynching bill would be trotted out to thwart the wish of the administration and the agreement of the majority party leaders that the special session be limited to neutrality, the sole purpose for which the congress was called together by the President.

There might be some excuse for the congress to take up pending legislation of urgent character, for setting up appropriations and the like before the regular session in January so that members could clear up business quickly next year and get back home for the presidential elections.

The anti-lynching bill is wholly outside that category. It is one of the most controversial bills in congress, unjustified, unfair, discriminatory in purpose and penal provisions. It would be certain to provoke long debate, if not a filibuster by Southern congressmen. It would throw the congress into turmoil, destroy the unity of thought so necessary for measured dedeliberations of congress before the crisis of the European war. It would doubtless extend the special session into next year.

Strangely Democrat Congressman Gavagan of New York, author of the bill did not propose to bring it up at this time. The move was sprung by Republican Congressman Schafer of Wisconsin. Schafer declares if Gavagan does not call the bill up that he will.

The congressional mind is hard to understand. The people of the United States do not want this special session prolonged for any purpose other than patriotic, non-partisan deliberative action for the best and most adequate measure that can be devised to keep this nation out of war and preserve our rights to peaceful pursuits.

The people of this country agree with the President that there is no valid reason for anything but neutrality legislation at the special session. They want congress to concentrate on that and then go home, and save the country the money and the worry to which it is always subiected when congress is in session.

TIME NOT RIPE FOR BILL AGAINST LYNCHING CLAIM

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell Wants Measure Held Over

Globe
10-20-39
Nashville Tenn.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (ANP)—When Congressman Arthur Mitchell declared Tuesday that he was not in favor of bringing the anti-lynching bill before the present session of congress and would vote against such a procedure, much speculation on the facts of the anti-lynching bill was begun.

Mr. Mitchell, the sole Negro in congress, declared he would vote against consideration the bill provided no other anti-neutrality legislation was brought up.

Leaders of both parties have agreed that no extraneous matters will be permitted, to rise in the house at least until the neutrality bill is disposed of, but they would be unable to prevent a vote on consideration of the anti-lynching bill because of its privileged status.

As the bill now stands, it has priority claims over all other legislation and any action at present might tend to jeopardize that position.

Representative Schafer of Wisconsin has been threatening to call the bill this week.

"On the understanding that failure to consider the measure now would not impair its chances in January," Mitchell said, "I would vote against bringing it up at this time."

There has been a great deal of talk on the possibility of bringing the anti-lynch bill before this session inasmuch as the bill will be the first to be considered when congress convenes in its regular session in January. However, any consideration of the bill at this session will not be in line with the strategy of the administration which hopes to confine all debates to neutrality.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
N.A.A.C.P. - REPORTS

6233

Unreported Lynchings

Ref 12-19-39

THE National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, through its executive secretary, recently gave out the information that a score or more of unreported lynchings have been committed in the South. That is startling information, but it is undoubtedly true, and is therefore, verification of the general belief of those of us who really know the South that it is not divorcing itself of mob lust and activity, as some suggest when pointing out a yearly decrease in the reported lynchings. In fact, we are of the opinion that there have been even more than a score of lynchings unreported from that section, if we may term the unlawful taking of human life by humans as a lynching.

Chicago Def.

The situation in the South is a result, both of conditions peculiar to that section, and of conditions peculiar to America. In the South it is a known fact that generations of slave-holding served to kill all respect on the part of whites for Negroes. This is an inevitable situation that arises between subject peoples and their masters, matters not what the color of the skin of the subjugated or slave people may be. This devoidance of respect naturally has always found, and still finds outlet in acts on the part of the dominant people against the minority of whatever character that may best suit the caprice of the dominant class. In the South, these acts reveal themselves in summary murders. The average southern white man thinks very little of taking the life of a black man.

Insofar as America is concerned, such a state of affairs results from a lack of a national consciousness of the enormity of the crimes of southern mobs, a toleration of such sadistic employments as are common to mobbists, nad a failure to recognize hte value of human life. America, like other countries, could have long ago been free of mobarchy had she really desired to be. The central government has the power and the right and duty to protect every citizen in his rights to life and the pursuit of happiness. Because of a failure to exercise this power and to live up to this duty, our great nation today finds itself cursed by the blood of innocent victims shed at the hands of lawless mobs. It is not strange, then, that unreported lynchings run into the scores in sections where mob murder is looked upon as a mere pastime. It is a deplorable state of affairs, but so long as our country is conscienceless it will remain as is.

FIVE LYNCHINGS IN 1939, ACCORDING TO N.A.A.C.P. - TWO VICTIMS ARE WHITE

1-6

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—There were five persons, two of them white, lynched in the United States during 1939, according to a report announced here by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In only one case was the charge of molesting whites alleged. The other cases grew out of differences between employer and employee, and an automobile accident. The list of lynch victims, in chronological order, together with the alleged causes, follows:

Walter Lee Frazier, week of Jan. 29, El Dorado, Ark., shot, allegedly for molesting white couples; Miles W. Brown, white, April 1, Panama City, Fla., shot, convicted of first degree murder for killing employer; Lee Snell, April 29, Daytona Beach, Fla., shot, charged with fatally injuring white child with his taxicab; Joe Rodgers, May 8, Canton, Miss., shot, charged with defending himself in fight with a lumber mill foreman; M. Eggleston, sometime in the spring of 1939, a national maritime union official, New Orleans, La., drowned, alleged to have uncovered graft among certain reactionary union members.

The N.A.A.C.P. report added that many lynchings have not come to light because of the new technique adopted by lynch mobs, who spirit away their victims quietly without attendant publicity.

White Would Match Lynching Figures of NAACP and Tuskegee

Afro-American

NEW YORK — Efforts to co-ordinate the lynching records of Tuskegee Institute and the NAACP were renewed, last week, in a letter from Walter White, executive secretary of the latter, and Tuskegee's president, Dr. F. D. Patterson.

Attention was called to the "confusion in the public mind" which results from the annual discrepancy in figures released by the two sources.

A suggestion that the two lists be compared and reconciled was contained in a recent editorial in the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Effects Cited

Citing the care with which the association compiles its record, through numerous branches, youth councils and correspondents throughout the country, Mr. White's letter continues:

"The recent publication by Tuskegee of only three lynchings during 1939, when there were in fact five known lynchings, was used in the House debate on the antilynching bill and will be used in the forthcoming filibuster in the Senate as a justification for throwing the bill aside.

"Naturally, the newspapers particularly in the South, and Southern Congressmen and Senators will feature the lowest number.

News Suppressed

"That this is not merely a matter of minor import can be seen from the report of an investigation made of the lynching of Joe Rodgers of Canton, Miss., which incidentally, was never published in any newspaper.

"You will note that a new technique is being adopted by lynchers in Southern States because of the unfavorable publicity which the South has had because of lynching — namely, of suppressing news of lynchings.

"This investigator reports that there were at least four lynchings thus perpetrated in Mississippi in addition to that of Joe Rodgers."

2

6234

LYNCHINGS- 1939
N.A.A.C.P. - REPORTS ON

N.A.A.C.P. Bares Torture Lynching Of Baptist Deacon In Mississippi

NEW YORK, June 9—The hot-iron torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and respected citizen of Canton, Miss., on May 8, was revealed here Friday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, following receipt of an investigator's report.

According to the investigator's report Rodgers, a deacon in Canton's Mt. Zion Baptist church, was shot, tortured by hot irons, brutally cut, and his body thrown into the Pearl River by a foreman of a local lumber mill where he was employed.

He was lynched, the report said, because he refused to accept a weekly deduction from his wages in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy.

The lynching represents the fifth in the United States for 1939 and the first in Mississippi this year.

It followed by nine months the lynching of Claude Banks, in the same town, July 21, 1938. Banks was the innocent victim of a white mob which was seeking suspects in the killing of a white man.

No Arrests Made

The lynching of Rodgers has brought no arrests, no publicity from the local papers, and an order from town officials advising local citizens to refrain from discussing the crime, despite the fact that the mill worker's body has been recovered from the river and given a decent burial.

The text of the investigator's report follo[redacted]

On the eighth of May at Canton, Miss, a Negro named Joe Rodgers was lynched. He was a worker at a lumber company, and was notified by his foreman that he had to live in the mill quarters. He refused to obey these orders. However, the company deducted from his weekly wages the sum of $5.50 for rent just as if he were living in the mill quarters.

"This Rodgers protested and asked for his full payment. His foreman struck him with a shovel and Rogers struck him back with one whereupon he was captured, tied hand and foot, shot, tortured with red hot iron and cut and the body thrown into the Pearl River.

Body Recovered

"The body was recovered from the river three days later and held in the funeral parlors of People's Funeral Home at Canton, Miss. He was later buried at Forest, Miss.

"This man was a deacon of Mt. Zion Baptist church at Canton, president of the church choir and had a splendid record in every way. The newspapers of Canton have not written a word and there have been no arrests made. The Negroes have been told not to discuss the incident.

"The sheriff of Canton is C. H. James. The mayor of the town is C. N. Harris."

Other lynchings during 1939 listed by the N.A.A.C.P. follows:

February—ELDORADO, Ark.: Walter Lee Frazier—alleged to have molested couples—shot.

March — WOODCLIFF, G a.: Charley Williams, accused of having said "something to a white woman that she didn't like," was snatched from a freight train and hanged.

April 1—PANAMA CITY, Fla.: Miles W. Brown (white), convicted of first degree murder for the killing of a former employer, was shot to death after being taken from jail by a band of masked men.

April 29—DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.: Lee Snell, Negro taxi driver and World War veteran, was shot to death on a highway near Daytona Beach while being taken to jail, and Constable James Durden said the slayers were two brothers of a boy fatally injured by Snell's taxi several hours earlier.

Hot Iron and Torture Lynching Of Mississippi Negro Revealed

Age
6-10-39

The hot-iron torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and respected citizen of Canton, Mississippi, on May 8, was revealed here Saturday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, following receipt of an investigator's report.

According to the investigator's report Rodgers, a deacon in Canton's Mt. Zion Baptist Church, was shot, tortured by hot irons, brutally cut, and his body thrown into the Pearl river by a foreman of a local lumber mill where he was employed.

He was lynched, the report said, because he refused to accept a weekly deduction of $5.50 from his wages in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy.

The lynching represents the fifth in the United States for 1939 and the first in Mississippi this year. It followed by nine months the lynching of Claude Banks, in the same town, July 21, 1938. Banks was the innocent victim of a white mob which was seeking suspects in the killing of a white man.

The lynching of Rodgers has brought no arrests, no publicity from the local papers, and an order from town officials advising local citizens to refrain from discussing the crime, despite the fact that the mill worker's body has been recovered from the river and given a decent burial. The text of the investigator's report follows:

Investigator's Report

"On the eight of May at Canton, Miss., a Negro named Joe Rodgers was lynched. He was a workman at a lumber company, and was notified by his foreman that he had to live in the mill quarters. He refused to obey these orders, However, the company deducted from his weekly wages the sum of $5.50 for rent just as if he were living in the mill quarters. This Rodgers protested and asked for his full payment. His foreman struck him with a shovel and Rodgers struck back with one whereupon he was captured, tied hand and foot, shot, tortured with red hot iron and cut and the body thrown into the Pearl River.

"The body was recovered from the river three days later and held in the funeral parlors of People's Funeral Home at Canton, Miss. He was later buried at Forest, Miss.

"This man was a deacon of Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Canton, president of the church choir and had a splendid record in every way. The newspapers of Canton have not written a word and there have been no arrests made. The Negroes have been told not to discuss the incident.

The sheriff of Canton is C. H. James. The mayor of the town is C. N. Harris."

1939 Lynch Record

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February—ELDORADO, ARK.: Walter Lee Frazier—alleged to have molested white couples—shot.

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April 1—PANAMA CITY, FLA.—Miles M. Brown (white), convicted of first degree murder for the killing of a former employer, was shot to death, after being taken from jail by a band of masked men.

April 29—DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.: Lee Snell, Negro taxi driver, was shot to death on a highway near Daytona Beach while being taken to jail, and Constable James Durden said the slayers were two brothers of a boy fatally injured by Snell's taxi several hours earlier.

N.A.A.C.P. Bares Torture Lynching Of Baptist Deacon In Mississippi

Defender 6-10-39 Chicago, Ill.

NEW YORK, June 9—The hot-iron torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, lumber worker and respected citizen of Canton, Miss., on May 8, was revealed here Friday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, following receipt of an investigator's report.

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The lynching represents the fifth in the United States for 1939 and the first in Mississippi this year.

It followed by nine months the lynching of Claude Banks, in the same town, July 21, 1938. Banks was the innocent victim of a white mob which was seeking suspects in the killing of a white man.

No Arrests Made

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"This man was a deacon of Mt. Zion Baptist church at Canton, president of the church choir and had a splendid record in every way. The newspapers of Canton have not written a word and there have been no arrests made. The Negroes have been told not to discuss the incident.

"The sheriff of Canton is C. H. James. The mayor of the town is C. N. Harris."

"We Must Overcome Apathy Toward Negro Rights," Congresswoman Urges

White Tells Group That 20 Unreported Lynchings Took Place in Mississippi

Tribune 11-4-39 Washington D.C.

NEW YORK. — "American citizens who are rightly concerned about the loss of democratic rights in many countries abroad, will have to overcome their apathy toward the minority problem faced by the Negro citizen in this country if Democracy is to be kept alive in the United States," Representative Caroline O'Day, of New York, told more than 100 persons here, Sunday afternoon, at Columbia University's Women's Faculty Club.

Mrs. O'Day was the principal speaker at an afternoon tea given at the club by Mrs. Alfred Meyer, of 1225 Park Avenue.

"Unless," she said, "the fight is made to pass a Federal anti-lynching bill, and to open up to the Negro opportunities for education and cultural advancement on a plane of equality with every other citizen, respect for democratic rights and democracy itself will wither away.

"It was recently brought to my attention," she said, "that the citizens represent two groups in our country whose struggle for equality of opportunity and recognition in all phases of American life, have been almost parallel, and these two groups have made the greatest strides during the history of our country in the last hundred years."

Tribute to Dr. Carver

Mrs. O'Day paid tribute to George Washington Carver, the Tuskegee scientist, who was an honor guest at the tea.

Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, who also spoke on the program, told the group that a recent investigation conducted by the association, revealed that more than twenty unreported lynchings of Negroes have taken place in the State of Mississippi this year.

"The growing force of the nation-wide condemnation of this crime," he said, "has driven lynching 'underground.' The new technique is for the mob to appoint a small committee who takes the victim off to the swamps and then return to report quietly that everything has been handled satisfactorily."

Mr. White predicted that the anti-lynching bill, now at the top of the Congressional calendar, will pass the House by a 3-to-1 majority vote.

"But in the Senate," he said, "we can expect a repetition of the disgraceful filibuster which cost the American taxpayers $461,000 in 1938. The filibuster will be led once again by Connally, of Texas; George, of Georgia; Byrnes, of South Carolina; Ellender of Louisiana, and other reactionaries who are determined to keep the myth of 'white supremacy' alive no matter what the cost is to the nation."

Patrol To Guard Murder Suspect

At the request of Sheriff J. C. Hollis of Hale County, Gov. Graves yesterday issued an order for the detailing of an adequate number of State Highway Patrol Officers to supplement the Sheriff's forces, so as to assure the preservation of order at the arraignment in Greensboro this morning of Grady Pitts alias Tubbs, negro, charged with the double murder of a white man and woman last month near the Hale County seat.

Pitts will be arraigned at a special term of Circuit Court, with Judge John Miller presiding, at 11 a.m., to answer to indictments charging him with the murder of the couple, and the criminal assault of the woman victim before she was slain. The accused is said to have confessed at the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham where he was taken for safekeeping immediately following his arrest by Sheriff Hollis, that he killed the man and woman, but denied assaulting the latter.

The Sheriff's request for a supplementary force of officers at Greensboro during the court proceedings, was joined in by Circuit Solicitor Joseph James. Since the arrest of the negro experts have announced that an automatic pistol found under the house where he had been lodging and said to have been identified as belonging to him, is unquestionably the murder weapon used in the double killing.

Montgomery Ala.

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50 Officers Sent To Pitts Trial

Chief Walter K. McAdory of the State Highway Patrol said yesterday he had received an order from Gov. Graves to detail a force of 50 patrol officers to be assigned to duty at Greensboro where they will assist local authorities in seeing to it that order is maintained from the beginning to conclusion of the trial opening there tomorrow of Grady Pitts alias Tubbs, negro, charged with the double murder and robbery of a white man and woman near the Hale County seat, last month.

1-10-39

The accused will be placed on trial in circuit court at Greensboro with Judge John Miller, tomorrow at 10 a.m. In addition to being charged with the murders and robbery, Pitts is also under indictment for allegedly attacking the woman victim prior to shooting and mortally wounding her with a pistol.

Montgomery Ala.

Immediately following his arrest by Sheriff J. C. Hollis and his deputies, the negro was taken to the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham for safekeeping, pending his arraignment which occurred a week or so ago, when Judge Miller set his trial for tomorrow and appointed counsel to defend him. By direction of the Governor, 40 State Highway Patrolmen supplemented the Sheriff's forces when the prisoner was arraigned.

Pitts is now at Kilby Prison and will be taken from there to Greensboro for trial tomorrow morning.

THREE ARE HELD IN PLANTER'S SLAYING

Negroes Spirited To Montgomery, Avoiding Pursuers

TALLASSEE, Ala., Feb. 5—(AP)—Elmore County's woman sheriff, Mrs. W. A. Austin, reported Sunday night three Negroes arrested in the Saturday night killing of a prominent white planter had been delivered safely to a jail in Montgomery after her deputies "dodged 25 or 30 cars" of white men.

2-6-39

Indignation ran high, she said, and the deputies took round-about roads to reach Montgomery with the Negroes.

Charlie Herrin, 60, was killed Saturday night by a shotgun blast fired by a masked Negro who invaded his home three miles from here..

Birmingham Ala.

Mrs. Herrin was quoted by a state patrolman as saying she and her husband were seated in their living room when they heard a noise in another part of the house. Then, a Negro pointed a shotgun through a door, saying: "This is a holdup."

According to the officer's account, Herrin started to rise from his chair and the Negro fired. Mrs. Herrin tossed the assailant her coin purse, containing about $1.50, and he fled.

The shotgun was found Sunday near the home, and the three Negroes were arrested Sunday afternoon. One was identified by the sheriff as owner of the gun.

Mrs. Austin said indignation flared as news of Herrin's death spread, and a large group of white men, in about 25 or 30 cars, sought the accused trio.

"The deputies kept the Negroes in hiding," Mrs. Austin said, "and they took roundabout roads to deliver them in Montgomery."

She listed the Negroes held as Tom Williams, Lewis Williams, not related to Tom, and Elbert Lewis.

Alabama Woman Sheriff Saves 3 From Lynchers

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—This town of the famed Scottsboro case saw a grim lynch mob frustrated Sunday, by a woman sheriff who saved three Negro prisoners after a dramatic dash along Alabama roads, it was reported. The trio are murder suspects.

2-7-39

They had been spirited out of Tallahassee, Ala., and brought to the Kilby State Prison, near here. The slaying of a 60-year-old planter, Charles Herrin, caused their arrest. The white man was killed in his old Colonial home near Jordansville, the night before.

Foils Mob

Elmore county (Ala.) woman sheriff, Mrs. W. A. Austin, with the help of her deputies, [illegible] eluded a white mob in twenty-five or thirty cars and lodged three men charged with killing a white planter safely in jail in Montgomery.

2-9-39

Indignation ran high, she said, and the deputies took roundabout roads to reach Montgomery.

Charlie Herrin, 60, was fatally shot Saturday by a masked man who invaded his home near here.

Mrs. Herrin was quoted as saying she and her husband were in their living room when they heard a noise. Then a man pointed a shotgun through a door, and shouted: "This is a holdup."

Authorities said Herrin started to rise from his chair and the man fired. Mrs. Herrin tossed the assailant her purse, containing $1.50, and he fled.

The shotgun was found near the home, and the three men were arrested. One was identified by the sheriff as owner of the gun.

She listed the men held as Tom Williams, Lewis Williams, not related to Tom, and Elbert Lewis.

Woman Sheriff Saves 3 From Lynch Mob

TALLASSEE, Ala., Feb. 16—(ANP)—Mrs. W. A. Austin, intrepid Elmore County woman sheriff, last Saturday saved the lives of three men arrested in the murder of a white planter. Informed that a mob was forming Sheriff Austin and deputies smuggled the prisoners to Montgomery where they were placed in city jail.

2-18-39
Pittsburgh Pa.

The officers dodged about 30 cars of white men who were following, then lost them completely by taking a sharp turn into a side road. The planter, Charlie Herrin, 60 years old, was allegedly killed by a shotgun blast from an intruder in his home, three miles from Tallassee. At the gunman's order Mrs. Herrin tossed him her coin purse containing about $1.50. The shotgun was found near the home and later the three men were arrested. One was identified by the sheriff as owner of the gun.

Greenville. S C Piedmor
April 19, 1939

Negro Rushed To State Pen

South Carolina

Feeling Running High In Community Where He Allegedly Tried Assault

A 32-year-old negro farm laborer held in connection with the attempted criminal assault of a young white married woman was rushed this afternoon to the state penitentiary in Columbia for safe-keeping.

Sheriff Martin said the negro was carried to the penitentiary from a nearby county jail where he was lodged last night and would probably be held there until near the time for trial.

The sheriff said charges against the negro would be sworn out shortly.

Feeling was running high in the community near Greenville where the attempted assault reportedly took place early yesterday afternoon.

Sheriff Martin said the woman suffered a blow on the head with a shotgun and the pulling of a handful of hair from her head but was not criminally assaulted or otherwise seriously injured. She was treated by a physician for bruises and scratches.

The victim, an attractive auburn-haired woman, said the negro, who was employed on her husband's farm, entered the kitchen while she was alone at home on a pretext of getting some kerosene, after which he seized her from behind.

After a struggle of a few minutes, she said, the negro seized a shotgun and forced her to walk toward the nearby barn. Inside the barn the negro threatened to kill her and then shoot himself, she said, but was finally dissuaded from molesting her when she pointed out the consequences.

The negro left and she returned to the house, she said, and was found there shortly afterward by a woman friend who notified the sheriff's office. Sheriff Martin and Deputies Pollard, Harrison and Daniel arrested the negro as he was plowing in a field and rushed him to an undisclosed jail before word of the attempted assault had spread.

WOMAN SHERIFF FOILS LYNCHERS

OFFICERS SMUGGLE MEN OUT OF CITY

Atlanta World
Atlanta, Ga.
2-11-39

TALLASSEE, Ala.—ANP,—Mrs. W. A. Austin, intrepid Elmore County woman sheriff, this week saved the lives of three men arrested in the murder of a white planter. Informed that a mob was forming Sheriff Austin and deputies smuggled the prisoners to Montgomery where they were placed in city jail.

The officers dodged about 30 cars af white men who were following, then lost them completely by taking a turn into a side road. The planter, Charlie Herrin, 60 years old, was allegedly killed by a shotgun blast from an intruder in his home, three miles from Tallassee. At the gunman's order Mrs. Herrin tossed him her coin purse containing about $1.50. The shotgun was found near the home and later the three men were arrested. One was identified by the sheriff as owner of the gun.

Officer Rescues Negro From Mob In Downtown Fight

Angry Crowd Gathers After White Man Is Struck With Hatchet

News
12-29-39
Birmingham, Ala.

A peg-legged Negro hacked a white man on the head with a hatchet in the heart of downtown Birmingham today and was nearly lynched before Officer C. L. Ellison could drag the Negro from the scene of the attack and take him to jail.

F. I. Livsey, about 55, foreman on a construction job at 1921 Second Avenue, North, narrowly escaped death or serious injury when Jonas Allison, 50, Negro kindling wood collector, struck him one time on the head with the sharp edge of the hatchet.

Allison, who stumps about the city on a wooden leg pulling a rickety cart behind him, had backed his vehicle up to the back door of the building in such a manner as to impede work.

A Negro workman asked him to move the cart and Allison declined. Livsey appeared and ordered the kindling wood collector to get the cart out of the way of incoming trucks. Allison again refused.

Words followed.

Suddenly, Officer Ellison said, the Negro stumped to his cart, seized a hatchet and struck at Livsey.

Only the almost involuntary act of self-protection of throwing his arm up to receive the blow saved Livsey from serious injury. His arm took most of the force of the downcoming hatchet with the result he, suffered only a minor scalp wound.

But in the brief seconds of the argument and the blow a crowd had began to gather. A near by workman seized a piece of lumber and struck the Negro, felling him.

Other bystanders seized clubs and rocks and were hurling them at Allison as he staggered to his feet.

ATTACK WEAPON—Officer C. L. Ellison is shown above holding the hatchet with which Jonas Allison, peg-legged Negro kindling wood collector, struck and injured F. I. Livsey, foreman on a downtown construction job.

News
12-28-39
Birmingham, Ala.

Bleeding copiously, Livsey himself seized a club and struck at his attacker.

Meanwhile, the shouts of the workmen had attracted nearly 100 persons to the scene. The alley was blocked.

Forcing his way through the crowd, Officer Ellison grappled with the Negro and disarmed him. Amid angry threats from the crowd, he hustled Allison to headquarters The Negro was taken later to Hillman Hospital, where his bruises were dressed, then to jail where charges of assault were lodged against him.

Livsey was taken to Hillman and his injuries dressed. Several stitches were taken in the hatchet wound. Later he returned to his job but did not remain.

LYNCHINGS - 1939 PREVENTED

ARKANSAS

✓

6239

ARKANSAS SHERIFF FOILS LYNCH MOB

Courier 5-13-39

ALTHEIMER, Ark., May 11 — (ANP) — After 100 whites her massed before the County jail o Friday to lynch Sylvester Williams, 20, charged with the rap and murder of Irene Taylor, 20 year-old white girl, Sheriff Brewster addressed the mob while deputies rushed the prisoner out a side door into a waiting car and sped away.

Five automobiles filled with whites gave chase, then went directly to Tucker Prison Farm after hearing that Williams was being rushed there.

The officers crossed them up, however, by changing their plans and taking the prisoner to an unknown destination for safekeeping.

Quick-Thinking Sheriff Saves Negroes From Mo

Afro

PINE BLUFF, Ark. — The strange spectacle of a white sheriff and his deputies outwitting local mob and saving Negro prisoners from being lynched took place Saturday. The deputies of Sheriff Garland Brewater rushed four Negroes out of town while Brewster pleaded with the enraged whites to curb their lynch desire. The disturbance closely followed the attack-slaying of a 19-year-old girl, Irene Taylor. The four Negroes who escaped the fury of the would-be lynchers were: Sylvester Williams, 25; Rosie Lee Jones, 45; Gertrude Jones, 14 and Oscar Jones, 8. According to the Sheriff, Williams confessed he criminally attacked the girl.

Arkansas Troops Will Guard Attack Trial

Advertiser

5-23-39

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., May 22—(AP)—Governor Carl E. Bailey announced today he would send national guardsmen to Pine Bluff Thursday to maintain order at the trial of a 22-year-old negro charged with criminal attack and murder in the slaying of a 18-year-old Altheimer girl.

A crowd of about 300 persons gathered at the Pine Bluff jail last Friday night asking for the negro, Sylvester Williams, accused of attacking Miss Irene Taylor, beating her to death and sinking her body into a bayou with iron wreights. The group dispersed after two members went through the jail and failed to find Williams.

ARKANSAS MOB MISSES ITS PREY; FOILED BY SHERIFF

Globe

6-2-39

Nashville

PINE BLUF, Ark., June 1 (ANP)—Less than three weeks after a mob tried unsuccessfully to seize Sylvester Williams, 22, alleged slayer of Irene Taylor, 18, white, another mob of 300 led by Allen Taylor, brother of the murder victim, was again foiled Thursday night following reports that Williams had confessed.

Taylor came to the county jail with about 30 henchmen, but Sheriff Garland Brewster wouldn't let him enter. Later he let Taylor go alone through the jail to prove Williams was not there. When Taylor returned to the front door, he was urged to make an inspection by someone who knew the jail. A man named Bat Baker accompanied him this time.

Returning to the entrance where officers stood with automatic rifles, sub-machine guns and tear gas bombs, Taylor shouted to the mob of 300. "Well boys, he not here." Sheriff Brewster asked the crowd to leave and the streets cleared. He had previously ordered two shots fired in the air to show his deputies meant business.

ARKANSAS SHERIFF FOILS LYNCH MOB

ALTHEIMER, Ark.,—(ANP)— After 100 whites here massed before the county jail on Friday to lynch Sylvester Williams, 20, charged with the rape and murder of Irene Taylor, 20 year old white girl, Sheriff Brewster addressed the mob while deputies rushed the prisoner out a side door into a waiting car and sped away.

Five automobiles filled with whites gave chase, then went directly to Tucker Prison Farm, after hearing that Williams was being rushed there.

The officers crossed them up, however, by changing their plans and taking the prisoner to an unknown destination for safekeeping.

The first attempt to lynch Williams occurred May 5 but Sheriff Brewster foiled the mob on this occasion by addressing them while officers hustled the prisoner out a side door and away to an unannounced destination. Williams is scheduled to go on trial Thursday.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
PREVENTED

ARKANSAS ✓

6240

Deputies Cow Lynch Mob

Age

PINE BLUFF, Ark.—For the second time a lynch mob was frustrated in its murderous intent as Sylvester Williams, 22, charged with murder and criminal assault in the death of a white girl, was being held in an unidentified jail after the crowd had attempted to seize him.

5-27-39

Armed sheriff's [illegible] repulsed the mob with machine guns, rifles and tear gas. This was a repetition of the same occurrence two weeks ago.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
PREVENTED

CALIFORNIA

6241

California Lynching Was Narrowly Averted

Age 11-4-39 New York

Attorney For Strikers Advises News Agency

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—(CNA)—How the lynching of a striking Negro cotton picker by an Associated Farmer mob in Madera county was narrowly averted, was revealed this week by Al Wirin, strikers' attorney interviewed here as he prepared to return to the San Joaquin Valley strike scene.

"Southern lynch law and vigilante terrorism inspired by the Associated Farmers, as employers outfit, is sweeping the valley," he declared.

Wirin told the Crusader News Agency of lynch threats against other Negro cotton pickers by Associated vigilantes, of wholesale arrests of Negro, white, Filipino and Mexican strikers on trumped-up charges, of hundreds being evicted hourly by the vigilantes.

Wirin related a startling tale of the near-lynching of Elmer Joseph, Negro cotton picker striker and resident of the valley for 14 years, by Associated Farmers.

A vigilante mob of 15, headed by Sherman Thomas, large Madera county cotton producer, seized Joseph and threatened to hang him from a tree, he said.

Joseph was cornered by armed vigilantes, related Wirin, as he prepared to return to his home in the evening. Flashlights threw an errie glare on the trapped man as Thomas, spokesman for the mob declared:

"Listen here, you nigger, you have been sitting on a platform at your meetings with white women. Do you know what we do to niggers where you come from?"

Joseph had been employed by Thomas until the strike.

"We'll string up like they do in the South," Thomas continued.

One of the vigilantes then proposed to "waste no more time, shouting: 'C'mon, I'll get a rope. Let's lynch the guy'."

Thomas then interrupted, saying: "If you'll promise to get out of the county, we'll let you go this time. But if you breathe a word of what happened tonight to anyone, I swear we will really lynch you."

Joseph was then released, returned to his home and immediately left, Wirin related. Later that night an enlarged vigilante mob arrived at his home and searched for him without success.

Wirin took Joseph to District Attorney Mordecai to swear out complaints against the lynchers; however, the district attorney and his brother hold large ranches and he has refused to act the strikers' attorney revealed.

GENERAL.

6242

LYNCHINGS- 1939
PREVENTED

ACTION SAVES 3 FROM LYNCH CRAZED MOB

Bee

Spirits Prisoners Out of County

2-12-39

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 9—While both houses of Congress ponder anti-lynch legislation as a weapon for curbing lynching in the South, its need was effectively shown here this week when only by the quick action of a woman sheriff and her deputies were the lives of three Negroes saved from a mob of 250 lynch-crazed whites.

The trio were arrested and charged with the slaying of a white planter three miles from here Saturday night. The woman sheriff Mrs. W. S. Austin of Elmore county reported Sunday night that she had delivered the prisoners safely in jail in Montgomery after her deputies dodged 25 or 30 cars of white men.

Take Roundabout Route

She said the deputies took roundabout roads to save the Negroes from lynching. They were arrested for the killing of Charles Herrin, 60-year-old planter, who was allegedly slain by a blast fired by a masked Negro who invaded his home. His widow, Mrs. Herrin told authorities she tossed the gunman her purse containing about $1.50 and he fled. The gun was found near the house and one of the men was identified as the gunman the sheriff said.

On Monday Tom Williams, 38, one of the trio arrested in the planter's death, confessed to the holdup-slaying of Herrin, authorities said. The other two held were Lewis Williams, not related to Tom, and Elbert Lewis.

In Atlanta, Saturday six persons were kidnaped by men garbed in Ku Klux regalia. They were accused of "inciting n . . .rs against white folks."

Another evidence of the need for legislation to curb lynchings and other forms of violence was the discovery last week near El Dorado, Ark., of the bullet-riddled and disfigured body of a man identified as Walter Lee Frazier.

Frazier, testimony at the inquest "might have been the man" police were seeking for questioning in connection with a series of attacks on white couples in the vicinity. A verdict of death at hands of person or persons unknown was returned.

LYNCHINGS- 1939 GEORGIA May 27 6236

PREVENTED

Officers' Work To Foil Lynch Mobs Related

Georgia Patrol's Efforts Lauded At Rally Of Southern Women

Advertiser

1-27-39

Montgomery Ala.

ATLANTA, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Southern women who form an organization to prevent lynchings were told tonight of the work of the State highway patrol in Georgia in rescuing negroes from mob violence.

Several instances in which State troopers took negroes from groups intent on violence were described before the Association of Southern Women for the prevention of lynching by Mayor Phil Brewster, commissioner of public safety for Georgia.

In one disturbance, he said, patrolmen seized a negro from 1,500 angry citizens in a North Georgia town and spirited him to Atlanta. In another case, a highway patrolman risked his life in a gun battle with a negro, capturing him before a crowd of pursuers reached the spot. The patrolman was wounded in the battle but managed to elude the pursuers with his captive and take him to jail in another section.

Brewster told the women it was hoped the State highway patrol would be given radio communication facilities within the next few months to provide a quicker method of assembling officers for emergencies.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the group, said establishment of radio-equipped State police patrols in all Southern States would be the major objective of the association this year.

She said Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, Tennessee, and South Carolina do not provide radio communication for State patrols.

The director said the anti-lynch bill now before Congress had "served to make us more lynch conscious." She described the woman's organization as non-political and said it was going about its task through an educational program.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Southern Inter-racial commission reported lynchings in 1938 numbered only six, the smallest figure since 1882. He said the improvement was due to work of newspapers, churches and other organizations which helped create "better public opinion."

Mrs. Atwood Martin of Louisville, Ky., will preside at a luncheon meeting of the association tomorrow. Mark Ethridge, general manager of The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times will address tomorrow's session. Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Atlanta Constitution, also will speak at tomorrow's meeting.

PATROL DISPERSES CROWD AT MONROE

Constitution

5-23-39

Throng Milling at Court House After Trial Is Scattered by Tear Gas.

Atlanta Ga

State troopers found it necessary to hurl four tear gas bombs late yesterday to disperse a crowd, estimated by the troopers at 1,500 persons, about the courthouse at Monroe, as they were bringing from the courtroom a convicted negro just sentenced to death.

The crowd, described by Sheriff J. D. Haralson as "irresponsible rowdies who didn't really mean to lynch anybody," booed and yelled and thrust themselves against the strategically arranged force of 50 officers. No shots were fired or other missiles hurled.

Troopers, under command of Deputy Director Lon E. Sullivan and Captain J. H. Lott, managed to get the prisoner, J. D. Vaughn, 22, into an automobile. He was taken directly through the country to Tattnall prison, where he was placed in a death cell last night.

Sheriff Gordon said the crime was committed about three weeks ago and that the man was captured within three hours by the sheriff and two Monroe policemen, J. D. Haralson and Grady Nash, and lodged in the Fulton tower here for safekeeping.

Quiet Arrangements.

Arrangements to prevent disorder at the trial, which began yesterday morning before Judge Blanton Fortson, were made quietly and the large escort of state troopers arranged for. Men from each of the 10 patrol headquarters were assigned to the duty at the request of Judge Fortson and Solicitor General Henry West.

Although spectators were admitted to the courtroom until it was full, Sheriff Gordon said, there was no difficulty during the trial. The group which gathered outside during the day was regarded as aimless thrill-seekers. Most of them were youthful, and there were no women in the crowd.

Judge Fortson sentenced Vaughn to die in the Tattnall electric chair July 7.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph

May 24, 1939

Troopers Set a Precedent

Troopers from the state highway patrol, under the command of Deputy Director Lon Sullivan and Capt. J. H. Lott, did an excellent piece of work Monday when they dispersed an unruly mob estimated at 1,500 which had gathered at Monroe, Ga., for the ostensible purpose of lynching a Negro who had just been tried and convicted on a charge of rape before Judge Blanton Fortson.

The whole incident serves to show that the law can be upheld and mob violence proventted without the need of any federal anti-lynching law.

The Negro was arrested within three hours of the crime and placed in the Fulton jail. In order that there should be no disorder during or after the trial, arrangements had been quietly made to bring to Monroe state highway troopers from each of the 10 regional headquarters of the state, to supplement the efforts of the local authorities.

The defendant was given a prompt but fair trial and was sentenced to die in the electric chair on July 7.

When the prisoner was being conveyed from the courtroom to a waiting automobile to be carried directly to the state prison at Reidsville the mob gathered and attempted to take the Negro from the officers in charge.

Sheriff Haralson described the mob as simply "a group of irresponsible rowdies who did not really mean to lynch anybody." Perhaps that is true, but nobody can account for the psychology of the mob. A few hotheads might have given the signal and violence would have taken place.

But the state troopers were prompt to act. A few well placed tear gas bombs soon scattered the "irresponsible mob." The Negro was placed in the automobile and carried to his destination in Tattnall county to await his execution.

The quiet resolution and prompt action of the troopers not only averted any possible lynching, and thereby earned the gratitude of the whole state, but set an example which may go far toward solving the lynching problem in Georgia, and placing beyond the remotest excuse the mischievous and arbitrary measures which have been introduced in congress from time to time to cure this evil.

One of the "talking points" of the advocates of the anti-lynching bill is that the sheriff is usually too friendly with members of a mob to make any real effort to quell a demonstration or to bring the offenders to justice when mob violence takes place. It is pointed out that he is an elective officer and that political considerations enter into his alleged unwillingness to take action.

On this theory some of these anti-lynching bills have provided that in the event of a lynching the whole county shall be subject to a penalty of 10 thousand dollars to be paid the family of the victim.

The person lynched might be taken from one county and brought into another where the actual lynching took place. The whole thing might have been framed by parties having an interest in collecting 10 thousand dollars on the death of the victim, just as there have been other frame-ups of a somewhat similar type in order to collect insurance money. Such things do happen and are not as fanciful as they may sound.

The burden of proof would be placed on the sheriff to show that he had done everything in his power to prevent the lynching, and yet, as we have said, the victim may have been brought into his county and lynched without his knowing the slightest thing about it.

A further objection to anti-lynching bills is that they are being agitated by Northern congressmen for political purposes and at a time when lynching is gradually dying out. In 1937 there were only eight such cases and the record is constantly improving.

However that may be, the state of Georgia is interested in the suppression of mob violence without any regard to the anti-lynching bill and the vigilance of the state highway patrol, their readiness to respond to a call from any part of the state at any time, their impersonal relation to the citizens of the county in which a lynching is threatened, may prove to be the key to this problem.

The good work on Monday was worth all the highway patrol has cost thus far and vindicates the wisdom of creating this trained and efficient body of men.

We are not assuming that any sheriff would fail to do his duty, but at all events the presence of these troopers, who have no personal ties in the threatened community, fits them in a special degree for such work as they performed on Monday.

The precedent should be followed hereafter as a further measure of averting criticism of local influence and for the more immediate purpose of vindicating the dignity of the law.

Waycross, Ga., Journal-Herald
May 25, 1939

Troopers Set a Precedent

The fellow citizens here of Captain John Henry Lott appreciate this comment by The Macon Telegraph:

"Troopers from the state highway patrol, under the command of Deputy Director Lon Sullivan and Capt. J. H. Lott, did an excellent piece of work Monday when they dispersed an unruly mob estimated a 1,500 which had gathered at Monroe, Ga. for the ostensible purpose of lynching a Negro who had just been tried and convicted on a charge of rape before Judge Blanton Fortson.

"The whole incident serves to show that the law can be upheld and mob violence provented without the need of any federal anti-lynching law.

'The Negro was arrested within three hours of the crime and placed in the Fulton jail. In order that there should be no disorder during or after the trial, arrangements had been quietly made to bring to Monroe state highway troopers from each of the 10 regional headquarters of the state, to supplement the efforts of the local authorities.

"The defendant was given a prompt but fair trial and was sentenced to die in the electric chair on July 7.

"When the prisoner was being conveyed from the courtroom to a waiting automobile to be carried directly to the state prison at Reidsville the mob gathered and attempted to take the Negro from the officers in charge.

"Sheriff Haralson described the mob as simply 'a group of irresponsible rowdies who did not really mean to lynch anybody.' Perhaps that is true, but nobody can account for the psychology of the mob. A few hot heads might have given the signal and violence would have taken place.

"But the state troopers were prompt to act. A few well placed tear gas bombs soon scattered the 'irresponsible mob.' The Negro was placed in the automobile and carried to his destination in Tattnall county to await his execution.

"The quiet resoluiton and prompt action of the troopers not only averted any possible lynching, and thereby earned the gratitude of the whole state, but set an example which may go far toward solving the lynching problem in Georgia, and placing beyond the remotest excuse the mischievous and arbitrary measures which have been introduced in congress from time to time to cure this evil.

"One of the 'talking points' of the advocates of the anti-lynching bill is that the sheriff is usually too friendly with members of a mob to make any real effort to quell a demonstration or to bring the offenders to justice when mob violence takes place. It is pointed out that he is an elective officer and that political considerations enter into his alleged unwillingness to take action.

"On this theory some of these anti-lynching bills have provided that in the event of a lynching the whole county shall be subject to a penalty of 10 thousand dollars to be paid the family of the victim

"The person lynched might be taken from one county and brought into another where the actual lynching took place. The whole thing might have been framed by parties having an interest in collecting 10 thousand dollars on the death of the victim, just as there have been other frame-ups of a somewhat similar type in order to collect insurance money. Such things do happen and are not as fanciful as they may sound.

"The burden of proof would be placed on the sheriff to show that he had done everything in his power to prevent the lynching, and yet, as we have said, the victim may have been brought into his county and lynched without his knowing the slightest thing about it.

"A further objection to anti lynching bills is that they are being agitated by Northern congressmen for political purposes and at a time when lynching is gradually dying out. In 1937 there were only eight such cases and the record is constantly improving.

"However that may be, the state of Georgia is interested in the suppression of mob violence without any regard to the anti-lynching bill and the vigilance of the state highway patrol, their readiness to respond to a call from any part of the state at any time, their impersonal relation to the citizens of the county in which a lynching is threatened, may prove to be the key to this problem.

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"The precedent should be followed hereafter as a further measure of averting criticism of local influence and for the more immediate purpose of vindicating the dignity of the law."

Augusta Ga. Herald
July 31, 1839

Feeling Is High Against Negro Held for Slaying of Merchant Near Avera

Keelon Eugene Thompson Fatally Wounded by Ken Brown Late Saturday Night, Sheriff James Hubbard Reports—Negro Rushed to Undisclosed Jail Few Minutes Before Mob Gathers

AVERA, Ga., July 31 — High feeling against a negro man, who shot and fatally wounded Keelon Eugene Thompson, 37-year-old merchant, near here Saturday, had subsided somewhat this morning as friends and relatives gathered for the victim's funeral.

Sheriff James Hubbard, of Louisville, who apprehended the negro shortly after the slaying, rushed him to an undisclosed jail just a few minutes before a mob of about 100 men gathered and muttered threats.

Sheriff Hubbard disclosed he "lost" a group of men following the automobile in which he had the slayer.

He said feeling was still high against the negro, but had subsided from what it had been early Sunday morning after the slaying.

Sheriff Hubbard said the negro, Ken Brown, would be tried in superior court which convenes in Louisville on the second Monday in November.

The slaying occurred in Thompson's store on the highway between Avera and Stapleton.

Brown, Sheriff Hubbard declared, came into the store in a drunken condition early Saturday night.

Thompson ordered him out. As he was leaving, he cursed and swore, "I'll come back to get you."

Rufus Sheppard, a white man employed in Thompson's store, shot at the negro with a shotgun but missed him. Mr. Thompson threw a short club at Brown and hit him on his head.

Sheriff Hubbard said the negro then walked into Stapleton and purchased some shells for his single-barrel shotgun, which he told the mechant he was going to use on watermelon thieves.

NEGRO GOES BACK TO THE STORE

He then walked back to Thompson's store.

Thompson was seated on a cot. Sheppard was lying on it, and Ressly Daniels was seated beside Thompson when the negro walked in.

Without saying a word, Brown leveled his gun at Thompson's chest and pulled the trigger. Thompson received the full load of shot directly below his heart. He managed to get to his feet but fell dead a few seconds later. The negro fled.

Sheriff Hubbard arrested him later at his home near the store.

He was asleep with his shotgun across his chest.

Sheriff Hubbard described Brown as "being in a drunken condition."

Services for Mr. Thompson were conducted today at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. J. M. Gilmore. Interment will follow in the churchyard.

Pallbearers will be the following nephews of Mr. Thompson: Leon Thompson, Clifford Thompson, Felton Thompson, Roy Shepard, Paul Harrison and Aeber Williams.

Honorary pallbearers will be J. M. Lafavor, A. D. Lafavor, George Hadden, George Rivers, Ed Stapleton, John Jones, Frank Stapleton, George Stapleton, John Wiggins, Lyle Phillips, Tom Rivers and B. F. Williams.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Flora Dixon Thompson; a son, Eugene Thompson, Avera; two daughters, Katherine Thompson and Fay Thompson, Avera; two brothers, John Thompson, Avera, and Albert Thompson, Wrens; one sister, Mrs. Ethel Sheppard, Wrens; one aunt, and several nieces and nephews

LYNCHINGS-1939
PREVENTED

GEORGIA

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6237

OFFICERS OUTWIT GEORGIA MOBSMEN

Age-Herald 1-5-39 Birmingham Ala.

ROYSTON, Ga., Jan. 4—(AP)—Two heriffs and two state troopers outhought and out-sped armed mobsmen Wednesday and took safely to Atlanta a young Negro suspected of hooting a farmer's wife.

The woman, mother of two children, was shot and gravely wounded at her home near here Wednesday morning after an attempt was made to attack her.

Sheriff Tom Andrews of Franklin County, and Sheriff T. Lomhenley, of Madison County, captured a suspect in Royston and possemen who had been aiding in the search gathered around the officers threateningly.

Meanwhile, a Royston citizen called Troopers G. B. Broxton and W. B. Grimstead from patrol headquarters at Gainesville.

When the troopers reached here after a fast automobile ride, Sheriff Lomhenley said the mob had grown to 300 or 400 men and "was about ready to grab my prisoner."

Fearing to attempt a forceful removal, the officers slipped the prisoner clear of the crowd by announcing they were going "to take him to the hospital to see if the victim can identify him."

After the Negro was loaded into the sheriff's car, the two officers' automobiles sped on out of town but, Sheriff Lomhenley said, "15 or 20 cars filled with men armed with shotguns and rifles" took up the chase.

The troopers and the sheriffs drove wildly for several minutes and drew ahead of the pursuers. Then both cars turned down a dirt sideroad. The prisoner was hastily transferred to the troopers' car. The patrolmen continued on down the dirt road by a circuitous route to Atlanta. Sheriff Lomhenley returned to the main highway and drove on to Danielsville, Madison County seat. He said the mobsmen abandoned the chase only a little way from Danielsville.

Sheriff Lomhenley said the suspect was Charlie Harper, 17, and he was lodged in Fulton Tower at Atlanta under charges of attempted murder.

Officers Save Georgia Negro From Irate Mob

Advertiser 1-5-39 Montgomery Ala.

ATLANTA, Jan. 4.—(AP)—R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, praised tonight the officers who saved a negro prisoner from possible mob violence at Royston, Ga.

Eleazer's commendation of Sheriff T. L. Henley and Tom Andrews and State Troopers G. B. Broxton and W. B. Grimstead was coupled with a statement that 1938 lynching figures "encourage the hope that mob violence is definitely on the way out."

"Though even a single lynching would be too many, the 1938 record of six is definitely encouraging," Eleazer said in a statement issued in behalf of the commission.

"It is the low water mark of lynchings for the 57-year period during which the records are being pushed off the map. Contrasted with the highest record—that of 1892 with 255 mob victims—the 1938 figures show a decrease of more than 97 per cent. For many years the average was more than 100 a year; as late as 1919 the number was 83. By comparison, the records of eight, eight and six for the last three years are certainly encouraging."

His statement said a less tolerant public opinion and greater vigilance by officers were the major factors in this decrease and said "newspapers also have been an effective agency in moulding anti-lynching opinion."

Volunteer Posse Turns Into Lynch Mob Near Atlanta

Courier 1-14-39 Pittsburgh Pa.

ATLANTA, Jan. 12—(Special)—Saving of Charlie Harper, 17-year-old Madison county youth from death at the hands of a lynch mob of between 300 and 400 white men near Royston, Wednesday afternoon, through the quick thinking and prompt action of four officers, two representing the State and two the county, has won widespread acclaim from every section of Georgia.

Investigating the shooting and serious injury of the wife of a white farmer and mother of two children who said she had been shot by a Negro man after he had attempted to criminally assault her, Sheriff T. L. Henley of Madison county assisted by Sheriff Thomas Andrews of Franklin were joined by a group of volunteer possemen that quickly grew in numbers.

VOLUNTEER POSSE DEMANDS PRISONER

Placing Harper under arrest as a suspect, on the outskirts of the town, the county officers started to remove him to a jail cell when they suddenly found themselves confronted by the volunteer possemen who demanded that the prisoner be turned over to them.

Observing the dangerous turn events had taken, a level-headed citizen, whose name has not yet been made public, hurried to the nearest telephone, called nearby Gainesville, and notified State Troopers W. B. Grimstead and G. B. Broxton, who set out at once for Royston in a squad car. When they arrived there, they found a mob of some 400 enraged and excited men on the point of attempting to forcibly compel the two sheriffs to surrender Harper to them.

Conferring hurriedly and in undertones, the four officers announced to the crowd they were going to take Harper to the hospital where the injured woman was being treated, to see if she could identify him. The announcement, however, was a pretext. Harper was placed in the sheriff's car, with the state troopers in their squad car, following. As soon as the two machines were well under way, the drivers of both suddenly opened the throttles of their motors as wide as they would go, and instead of heading toward the hospital, sped out of town.

WILD AND EERIE CHASE OVER GEORGIA ROADS

Realizing they were about to be deprived of their intended quarry, the armed mobsmen piled into a score or more of automobiles, and gave chase. While they still had a good head start, the officers drove off the main highway into a side road. Harper was quickly shifted to the troopers' squad car which sped off to follow a system of county roads to Atlanta, where the prisoner was placed in the Fulton county jail.

With the pursuit now drawing close, the two sheriffs swerved their car back into the highway, and soon were again fleeing the mobsmen at top speed. Entering the town of Danielsville, county seat of Madison, the officers reported the chase had been abandoned and broken up several miles out.

Though critically wounded, the woman victim of the shooting is said to have a fair chance for recovery.

ELEAZER PRAISES ACTION OF OFFICERS

In a statement subsequently issued here in praise of the exploit of the county and state officers, R. B. Eleazer, Educational Director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation said their action taken in connection with recent publication of figures showing a marked decrease in lynching for the year 1938, encourages the hope that mob violence will soon be a thing of the past in this country.

According to Eleazer, though newspapers have done much toward the development and strengthening of public opinion opposed to lynching, the major factors in the decrease in this crime that has been recorded for the past 12 months, is a less tolerant public opinion and greater vigilance by officers.

"Though even a single lynching would be too many," his statement said, "the 1938 record of six is definitely encouraging. It is the low-water mark of lynchings for the fifty-seven year period during which the records are being pushed off the map. Contrasted with the highest record, that of 1892 with two hundred and fifty-five mob victims, the 1938 figures show a decrease of more than ninety-seven per cent. For many years the average was more than one hundred a year, and as late as 1919 the total was eighty-three. By comparison, the records of eight, eight and six for the last three years are certainly encouraging."

Georgia Prisoner Is Saved From Mob

Daily World 1-5-39 Atlanta Ga.

ROYSTON, Ga.—(SNS)—Charlie Harper, 17, was rushed to Atlanta's Fulton Tower, Wednesday, following his arrest on charges of attempted murder of a white farmer's wife at her home near here.

A crowd of 300 to [illegible] threatening men gathered around Sheriff Tom Andrews, of Franklin county, and Sheriff T. L. Henley, of Madison county, who captured the suspect. The sheriffs were reinforced by State Troopers G. B. Broxton and W. B. Grimstead, from Gainesville, who, fearing to attempt a forceful removal, employed a ruse, slipped the prisoner clear of the crowd, and sped on out of town.

Fifteen or twenty cars filled with men armed with shotguns and rifles pursued the officers, but were outdistanced. The prisoner was transferred to the troopers' car, and the patrolmen continued by a circuitous route to Atlana.

According to police, the white woman was shot in the head with a shotgun and dragged herself about a quarter of a mile to a neighbor's house for help.

Georgia Law Enforcers Save Alleged Suspect from Mob

Journal and Guide · 1-21-39 Norfolk, Va.

Was Accused of Rape and Gravely Injuring Woman

ROYSTON, Ga., (ANP)—After a heated chase down the state highway in which two sheriffs and two state troopers last week outwitted a mob of 300 bent on lynching 17-year-old rape suspect Charlie Harper, the law enforcers, by traveling a circuitous route, finally brought their prisoner to Atlanta for safe keeping.

Young Harper was arrested as a suspect in an attack on a Royston woman. The mother of two children, she was shot and gravely wounded at her home near here after an attempt had allegedly been made to attack her. Sheriffs who smuggled Harper to Atlanta were Tom Andrews and T. L. Henley, aided by Gainesville State Troopers G. B. Broxton and W. B. Grimstead.

Commenting on the officer's success in saving Harper, R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, said their action "encouraged the hope that mob violence was on the way out." He said last year's lynch record of six victims: "Is the low-water mark of lynchings for the 57-year period during which the records have been kept."

GEORGIA SHERIFFS

THWART LYNCHING

1-12-39

Royston, Ga., Jan. 9—(UNP)—Two state troopers and two sheriffs resorted to a ruse here last Wednesday to foil a mob of over four hundred which threatened the life of a prisoner who was suspected of shooting a white woman.

The prisoner, Charlie Harper, 17, was captured by the sheriffs of Franklin and Madison counties with the aid of a large posse of citizens. When the arrest was learned, a mob estimated between 300 and 500 gathered quickly and shouts of "lynch the nigger" grew louder and louder.

Fearing mob action, sheriffs and two state troopers who came from a nearby town slipped the prisoner away from the mob by announcing that they had to take him "to the hospital to see if the victim can identify him." They placed the colored youth in the sheriff's car and sped out of town. "Fifteen or twenty cars filled with men armed with shotguns and rifles followed them," the sheriffs stated.

Driving at top speed, the sheriff's car outdistanced the pursuers, and after turning into a side road, the prisoner was transferred to one of the state troopers's cars and was brought by a circuitous route to Atlanta, Ga., for safety.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, hailed the action of the officers and credited them with saving the prisoner from death at the hands of the mob. Charlie Harper is charged with shooting a white woman after he attempted to attack her, according to state police.

Officers' Work To Foil Lynch Mobs Related

Georgia Patrol's Efforts Lauded At Rally Of Southern Women

Advertiser

1-27-39

Montgomery, Ala.

ATLANTA, Jan. 26.—(AP)—Southern women who form an organization to prevent lynchings were told tonight of the work of the State highway patrol in Georgia in rescuing negroes from mob violence.

Several instances in which State troopers took negroes from groups intent on violence were described before the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching by Mayor Phil Brewster, commissioner of public safety for Georgia.

In one disturbance, he said, patrolmen seized a negro from 1,500 angry citizens in a North Georgia town and spirited him to Atlanta. In another case, a highway patrolman risked his life in a gun battle with a negro, capturing him before a crowd of pursuers reached the spot. The patrolman was wounded in the battle but managed to elude the pursuers with his captive and take him to jail in another section.

Brewster told the women it was hoped the State highway patrol would be given radio communication facilities within the next few months to provide a quicker method of assembling officers for emergencies.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the group, said establishment of radio-equipped State police patrols in all Southern States would be the major objective of the association this year.

She said Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Virginia, Tennessee, and South Carolina do not provide radio communication for State patrols.

The director said the anti-lynch bill now before Congress had "served to make us more lynch conscious." She described the woman's organization as non-political and said it was going about its task through an educational program.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Southern Inter-racial commission reported lynchings in 1938 numbered only six, the smallest figure since 1882. He said the improvement was due to work of newspapers, churches and other organizations which helped create "better public opinion."

Mrs. Atwood Martin of Louisville, Ky., will preside at a luncheon meeting of the association tomorrow. Mark Ethridge, general manager of The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times will address tomorrow's session. Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Atlanta Constitution, also will speak at tomorrow's meeting.

Mob Runs Negroes

By [illegible] Lee
([illegible])

Journal

5-14-39

Monroe, Ga.—Hell broke loose in this little town this week, with widespread mob violence supplanting law and order. The blood hounds were called out and respectable Negro citizens ran from their homes. Two Negroes were rushed to Atlanta—one suspected of raping a white woman and the other charged with writing a love letter to a white girl at a five and ten store where they both worked.

J. D. Vaugh is the Negro suspected of rape while Rufus Lumppkin, son of a prominent Monroe family, is charged with writing a love letter to a socially prominent white girl. According to those in the know Rufus has been carrying on a correspondence with the girl for some time but one of his love laden missives fell into the hands of the girl's father.

Word spread quickly and a [illegible] from surrounding counties rushed to town [illegible] in a real mob [illegible]. Colored citizens were threatened and run out of town, and bloodshed was averted only by the arrival of National Guardsmen.

In Savannah a white man was caught in a Negro woman's bed; there was no mob violence, no threats, and no lashing—he was fined $25.

done [illegible]

6238

LYNCHINGS- 1939
PREVENTED

MISSISSIPPI

Try White Man And Negro For Attack Charge

Plaindealer

LOUISVILLE, Miss., Jan. 27—(ANP)—One of the most unusual cases in the racially strict deep south was being tried here this week when Meredith Hemphill, 30, white farmer, and George Reed, 25, faced charges of attacking a 14-year-old white girl.

1-27-39

The schoolgirl testified from the witness stand as trial started Friday that the men abducted her and took her into the woods near Hemphill's farm. She was missing from her home for several days. The defendants on their arrest were held in the jail at Jackson for safekeeping until brought here last week.

Kansas City

Makes No Difference About Color . . . When Mississippi Decides On A Lynching Bee

The Habit Keeps On Growing, and Way Late They'll Lynch a White Man, Too — But In That Case, the Law Really Gets Busy.

BRANDON, Miss., Mar. 2—(Special)—An incident said to be without precedent in this State, occurred here Saturday, when an enraged mob became so threatening at the arraignment of Jim White, 59-year-old white tenant farmer charged with the murder of his wife to which he is said to have confessed . . . that the sheriff and his deputies had to rush their prisoner to a place of safekeeping to prevent a prospective lynching. Jealousy of a neighbor is said to have been the motive of White in the slaying of his wife, who was 11 years his junior.

Feb. 25

Courier

3-4-39

Pitt. Pa.

MOB MADE UP OF DEAD WOMAN'S RELATIVES

Prior to the arraignment of White a mob said to have been headed by relatives of the murdered woman, formed and assumed such a menacing attitude that the prisoner was removed from the jail to the schoolhouse where the proceedings were scheduled to be held, under heavy guard. The crowd of armed men quickly surrounded the building and with the situation growing more critical with each passing minute, White decided to waive preliminary hearing.

He was immediately rushed by the officers through a rear door and a line of shouting, gesticulating men, to a waiting automobile, and taken to an unannounced jail in a distant county.

BUT THE LAW GOT BUSY IN RECORD TIME

Sheriff Thomas Spann admitted that serious trouble had been narrowly averted, and that tragedy would have resulted had shooting broken out at any time during the removal of White to the schoolhouse and his subsequent brief stay there and transfer to the waiting car, prior to being driven to a place of safety.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
PREVENTED

SOUTH CAROLINA

6243

Greenville S C News
April 19, 1939

WOMAN DISSUADES NEGRO IN ATTEMPT AT ATTACK ON HER

Victim Escapes Unharmed—Negro Whisked Out Of County Quickly

A 32-year-old negro farm laborer was whisked to an unannounced jail early yesterday afternoon after the office of Sheriff John A. Martin had received a report that he had attempted an assault of a 33-year-old white woman at her farm home near Greenville.

The negro was arrested as he was plowing in a field of the woman's husband. Sheriff John A. Martin and Deputies Sam Pollard, H. C Harrison and Earl Daniel made the arrest.

Sheriff Martin said the woman was hit on the head with a shotgun and that a handful of hair was pulled from her head. He said the negro admitted using the shotgun, but said robbery and not assault was his motive.

NOT ASSAULTED

The victim was not criminally attacked. She succeeded in dissuading him from his announced purpose after he had forced her from the kitchen of her own home and into a nearby barn with a shotgun pointed at her. She was later treated at a doctor's office for bruises and scratches.

The victim, an attractive, auburn-haired woman of pleasing appearance, recounted details of the molestation to a newspaper reporter. She said that the negro, who was employed on her husband's farm, entered the kitchen while she was alone in the house with a request for kerosene with which to loosen a part on a plow. Before she realized his intentions, she said, he had seized her from behind.

She said that both fell to the floor and that she fought him on even terms until after several minutes they had tumbled toward a sideboard behind which was kept a shotgun. The negro seized the shotgun and held her at bay with it.

The negro, she said, prodded her toward the barn and midway the barn and house cocked the weapon. At this point, she screamed, but no help came.

DISSUADES ATTACKER

Inside the barn, she began telling him of the consequences he might expect. At that point, she said, the negro broke down and cried. He asked if she would refrain from telling her husband of the encounter if he would leave. Seeking any pretext, she agreed. The negro left.

A short while later, a neighbor woman came by while the victim was trying to regain her strength by resting in a chair. Fearful of what might happen if her husband found out, she requested the neighbor to ride in to the sheriff's office for help. The neighbor immediately reported the attempted attack to Sheriff Martin and a short while later the negro ~~was being rushed out of the county.~~

LYNCHINGS- 1939

PREVENTED

VIRGINIA

6244

Newport News, Va. Press
June 7, 1939

COOLNESS PREVENTS LYNCHING

E. H. Edwards, jailor at Chatham, Pittsylvania county, stood off an armed mob Sunday night and prevented the lynching of a Negro charged with the slaying of an officer of the law. Three armed men gained entrance to the jail. But Mr. Edwards refused to be intimidated by them. He argued with them at length to allow the law to take its course and in the meantime got word to the sheriff and the commonwealth's attorney, who arrived in time to add the weight of their voices to what the jailor was saying.

Mr. Edwards prevented a disgraceful lynching by his coolness. It may be, of course, that the masked mob was not as hungry for blood as some mobs are. But if more officers of the law were as zealous in protecting prisoners from lynching-bent mobs as was the Chatham jailor there would be fewer lynchings.

However, we suggest that the Negro in question be removed from the Chatham jail and placed in one where he will have more protection, if this has not already been done. It is asking too much to ask one lone jailer to stand off a mob when he has little chance of securing armed assistance if it be needed.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
PREVENTED

VIRGINIA

6245

Danville, Va., Register
June 1, 1939

CURRENT OPINION

ANTILYNCHING PATTERN

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Virginia has not had a lynching since 1926, and is not likely to have any more, if law enforcement officers throughout the State follow the antilynching procedure of which Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead Jr., of Pittsylvania County has just given an efficient demonstration.

On Sunday afternoon, a county constable was shot and killed by a negro man, while attempting to make an arrest at a colored church near Callands. The negro fled, and a search for him was begun by an armed posse. Many an offense like this has been followed by a lynching, in recent years. The situation gets out of the hands of the officers directing the search, and the level-headed possemen, and a lynching is staged. It is an all too familiar pattern of violence. In this case, the armed farmers, volunteers, and local officers, were soon joined by nine State troopers whose services had been requested by Mr. Whitehead.

The negro who is alleged to have fatally shot the officer, surrendered, and was placed in the Pittsylvania County jail where his safekeeping was assured. Feeling which had mounted dangerously high in the section of the county in which the slain constable lived, has quieted down. Today, a Special Grand Jury called by Judge J. T. Clement of the Circuit Court of Pittsylvania County, at the request of the Commonwealth's Attorney, will consider the indictment of the accused negro. Four of the State troopers are remaining at Chatham to insure adequate police protection during the court proceedings.

Having acted with promptitude and intelligence thus far in the case, Commonwealth's Attorney Whitehead can be expected to see his prisoner safely through trial.

Suspect In Slaying Near Mob Victim

Journal and Guide

Courageous Jailor Dissuades Masked Mob

6-10-39

CHATHAM, Va. — Sam Swanson, held in Pittsylvania County jail here charged with the slaying of County Constable William Coward more than a week ago, narrowly missed being lynched by a masked mob Monday night.

The fact that he was saved was due to the cool-headedness and courage of E. A. Edwards, county jailor who stood off the armed, masked mob and talked with them until Sheriff Archer Overby and several hastily gathered citizens could reach the scene of the trouble.

Norfolk Va

The attempted lynching occurred about 11 o'clock when several automobile loads of men straggled in and surrounded the jail. Three of the mob woke the jailor by ringing the bell and gained admittance by saying they were county officers with prisoners to be locked up. Forcing their way past the jailer, the trio demanded Swanson and two other men held as accessories to the slaying of Constable Coward.

With the keys to the cells in his pockets, Jailer Edwards began pleading with the crowd to "let the law take its course." He explained that Swanson was to be given an early trial and that if they did not like the brand of justice imposed by a jury they could "take steps" later. He later explained that he said this only to save the situation.

Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead, who last week summoned a special grand jury which returned an indictment against Swanson, together with Sheriff Overby who was quickly notified added their pleas to those of Jailer Edwards and shortly afterwards the mob disappeared. Sheriff Overby said he could not recognize any member of the mob, but added that there "was liquor in the crowd."

The officer was quoted as saying that he would "take proceedings" against anyone who coud be proved to have ben in the mob.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth's Attorney Whitehead announced that a thorough investigation into the attempted lynching, would be made as the threatened victims were removed to an unannounced jail for safe-keeping. Declaring that the identities of two members of the mob are known, Mr. Whitehead said that the probe would begin immediately.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
May 30, 1939

Near Lynching Is Prevented

Accused Slayer of Officer Hidden From Crowd; State Police on Duty

Chatham, May 29.—(AP)—Commonwealth's Attorney Joseph Whitehead, Jr., said late today he would ask for a special grand jury to consider the case of Sam Swanson, Negro, charged with the slaying of Constable William N. Coward at a Negro church near Callands Sunday. May 28

Coward was shot five times after he had arrested Davis Holly, Negro, on a charge of creating a disturbance outside the church.

After Holly had been placed in the constable's car, Swanson and Paul Fuller attempted to release him, Whitehead said. While Coward grappled with Swanson, Fuller took the officer's gun from his holster and passed it to Swanson. Swanson shot the officer through the head, then stood above him and fired four more shots into his body, Whitehead said.

Feeling mounted rapidly in the section, and a group of white men went to a nearby store and secured a length of rope. Swanson had disappeared, however, and could not be found.

Mr. Whitehead was notified, also Sheriff A. H. Overbey, of Pittsylvania County. Overbey said he had no doubt the Negro would have been dealt with summarily had the crowd been able to find him.

Whitehead telephoned to Maj. H. B. Nicholas, superintendent of State police, and asked that State troopers be sent to the scene to prevent violence in the event Swanson was located. Several stationed in and near this section were dispatched to the scene.

Swanson was arrested about 5 o'clock this morning at the home of his father, Walter Swanson, a few miles from the scene of the shooting. Walter Swanson led his son out and surrendered him to the officers.

Paul Fuller and a Negro named Andrew Campbell are being held as accessories. Coward leaves his wife, five children and a sister and brother.

Danville, Va., Register
June 11, 1939

778

LYNCHING AVERTED—AND HOW?

(Lynchburg News)

We boast in Virginia that we have had no lynching for many, many years. That, perhaps, is putting it a little too strongly. We do not boast; we merely use the fact as an argument against federal interference with our affairs in obvious attempt to increase the power of the federal government over the states and to get votes in districts in which there are many negro voters. Anyway, we haven't had a lynching for many, many years.

That doesn't mean, however, that all danger that we will ever have a lynching has passed. Recently in a Virginia county the danger was apparent and was averted by the courage of a jailer and the timely arrival of the sheriff and commonwealth's attorney to give him their moral backing. In the satisfaction experienced by aversion of the danger it is well to remember that the escape was a narrow one.

It is well to remember, too, that back of the jailer and of the other officials was the real sentiment of the community. It is well to remember that especially, for there is the cure for the evil—a public sentiment hostile to lynching and to lynchers. It is worth more than all the laws vote-seeking politicians can devise.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
June 9, 1939

778

A Lynching Averted.

Virginia has an anti-lynching law of its own and there has not been a mob murder in the State since the law was passed ten or twelve years ago. But Virginia newspapers are commending Jailer A. E. Edwards of Chatham, in Pittsylvania County, for his courage in averting a threatened lynching there.

Reports are that a band of three or four masked men gained entrance to the jail at Chatham by subterfuge and demanded that the Jailer deliver to them Sam Swanson, a Negro accused of having killed a County Constable. The Jailer argued with the men, some of whom had been drinking, and held them in conversation until the Sheriff and Commonwealth's Attorney arrived on the scene. The would-be lynchers then were persuaded to leave.

Jailer Edwards showed courage of a high order and Virginia should be grateful to him that he probably saved the State the disgrace of a lynching bee. But since it seems that the mob spirit is not yet quite dead even in Virginia, one wonders if a Negro accused of a serious crime should be held in jail in a small county seat where there are not enough officers of the law to protect a prisoner from a mob.

Jailer Edwards's experience does not teach that it is easy, or always easy, to prevent a lynching. Had a determined mob of considerable size proposed to lynch Sam Swanson it probably would have overpowered the Jailer and accomplished its purpose. What his experience or the incident at Chatham does teach is that precautions still should be taken to protect Negro prisoners in Virginia. The State's anti-lynching law is not of itself sufficient protection.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
June 7, 1939

Preventing a Lynching

IT IS humiliating that Virginians should attempt a lynching at any time, but there are hopeful signs in connection with the recent effort by a mob to take SAM SWANSON, a Negro accused of slaying CONSTABLE WILLIAM COWARD, from the Pittsylvania County jail.

In the first place, the masked mob was halted by the quick wit and courage of JAILER E. A. EDWARDS, who is justly praised in two other editorials reprinted on this page. He halted the armed men, until help reached him, by assuring them that violence was unreasonable, in view of the fact that the accused Negro is to be given a speedy trial.

When he was joined a few minutes later by SHERIFF ARCHER OVERBY and COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY JOSEPH WHITEHEAD and a few private citizens, the would-be lynchers moved off. Apparently the mobsters were satisfied, for otherwise they might easily have overpowered the jailer and his group of supporters.

This State has not had a lynching since 1926, and wants no more of them. Decent men are ashamed to think that presumably intelligent white citizens could be guilty of this cowardly form of lawlessness.

The fact that the Pittsylvania mobsters were persuaded by argument rather than by arms to abandon a lynching attempt may possibly be an indication that the mob spirit, while not dead in Virginia, is losing some of its vitality.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
June 11, 1939

Protecting a Prisoner.

A forty-six-year-old man of Marion, Virginia, who operated a cleaning and pressing shop, was found guilty the other day of attempting to assault a twelve-year-old girl and was sentenced to twenty years in prison. Judge Walter H. Robertson overruled a defense motion to set aside the verdict and the convicted man was whisked away to an undisclosed jail by State Police in an armored car. Ten State Troopers reinforced Deputies and Marion, Saltville and Chilhowie policemen in standing guard against possible mob violence.

Commenting a day or two ago on the action of Jailer Edwards of Pittsylvania County in averting a threatened lynching at Chatham, this column mentioned the fact that Virginia has an anti-lynching law but suggested that the law does not of itself afford sufficient protection for accused persons against whom public feeling may be strong. It still is necessary for police authorities to take adequate precautions against possible mob violence, and such precautions were taken in the case of the Marion man.

There has not been a lynching in Virginia in ten or twelve years, there may never be another such crime in the State, but those responsible for the safety of prisoners should not depend upon the anti-lynching statute to prevent mob lawlessness. That statute is on the books, it defines lynching as murder, it makes mobsters liable to indictment on that charge, and it provides for State co-operation with local authorities in apprehending and punishing members of mobs. But a lynching was threatened at Chatham, and evidently a possible attempt at lynching was feared at Marion.

There is reason to believe, should a mob murder be perpetrated in Virginia, that the murderers would be found and brought to justice. In the meantime, responsible authorities everywhere should be resolved to save the State the disgrace of a lynching by taking all necessary and proper measures to protect prisoners whose crimes arouse public resentment.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
Juune 10, 1939

Fears the Next Mob

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In The Times-Dispatch of June 7 we find much praise given the sheriff of Pittsylvania County in an editorial copied from the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot and also an editorial copied from the Danville Register. Be it far from me to detract from the efforts of Jailer Edwards in his efforts to save his prisoner from lynching, but I must say the wisdom of the sheriff in putting Sam Swanson in Chatham jail was very bad judgment. The sheriff, along with the general public, was fully aware of the fact that feeling throughout the county was running high, and to place the accused in Chatham jail invited trouble.

It is always best to do the thing which will prevent trouble rather than the thing which is calculated to bring on trouble. All sheriffs in the State should understand it is unwise to take their prisoners to the county jail of any county where a crime has been committed and public feeling running high. The only thing which prevented the lynching of Swanson was due to the fact the mob was persuaded to leave the jail; but if another similar occasion arises, will a mob the next time be persuaded to leave?

Danville. R. L. HILLSBY.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
Juune 10, 1939

Praise for a Jailer

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The State of Virginia truly owes the keeper of the Chatham jail, Mr. E. A. Edwards, a vote of thanks, who by his courage and with no weapon of his own, succeeded in preventing a wholesale lynching Sunday night when a mob of 100 or more armed men converged on the jail. They demanded the custody of the Negroes, Sam Swanson, Paul Campbell and Randy Fuller, held in the jail in connection with the fatal shooting of Constable William M. Coward on the 28th of May.

"Give us the keys. We want them Negroes," Edwards quoted the spokesman of the mob as saying. He refused to yield up the jail keys which he carried in his pocket. Edwards tried to reason with the men, telling them that the county was preparing for a prompt trial of the accused men.

Some of the members of the mob actually seized Edwards and were about to take the keys by force. When Preston Moses, the editor of the Pittsylvania Tribune, saw the predicament in which the jailor was placed, he made his way to him and succeeded in helping him break away from the men.

As Edwards argued and plead with the mob, young Mr. Moses hurried to the nearest phone to call Sheriff Overbey. As Mr. Moses ran he was pursued by some of the angry mob who believed the jailer had given him the keys but he outdistanced them. Sheriff Arch Overbey came immediately and sent calls to Danville and Schoolfield for police aid. At that the crowd began to waver and finally melted away. Sheriff Overbey gives Mr. Edwards the credit for preventing the lynching by stalling the mob until Preston Moses could phone for him.

Commonwealth's Atorney Joseph Whitehead Jr. has begun an investigation of the mob. Mr. Whitehead is checking up on several suspects but as the men were massed it would be very difficult to identify them. Pittsylvania County and Virginia have been saved from a dark blot which would have been a lasting reproach upon the Commonwealth and the community. J. G. SMITH,

Danville.

Roanoke, Va., World News
June 8, 1939

Virginia Justice

Two items of the week's news give Virginians a solid sense of satisfaction over Virginia methods of law enforcement. At Chatham, county seat of Pittsylvania county, a party of masked drunks forced their way into the jail and demanded keys to the cell of Sam Swanson, a Negro charged with killing a county constable. Jailer E. A. Edwards, after sending a runner for help, parleyed with the intruders until the sheriff and Commonwealth's attorney arrived. Virginia was saved from a lynching, a disgrace it has not experienced since William Bird met death at the hands of a mob in Wythe county in 1926. It is greatly to be hoped that Pittsylvania county will follow up this matter by vigorous prosecution of the would-be lynchers. It is not enough to deprecate lynching if the communities where ruffians seek to take the law into their own hands do not insist that such ruffians pay the full penalty of the law.

Soon after Director of Motor Vehicles Marion S. Battle reorganized the State police, a department of criminal investigation was formed under Inspector James Cowan, of Christiansburg. Assigned to it was the 11-year-old case of Henry Sheppard, Negro, accused of two murders, with a police record of "shooting on sight." Virginia's "little FBI" trailed Sheppard to New York, where in the Harlem center of the numbers racket, he was arrested by Inspector Cowan and Sergeant Barham, aided by four New York city policemen. He was brought back to Virginia and lodged in jail to answer the charges of killing Sarah Carter, Negro woman of Culpeper in 1927, and of State Trooper W. N. Hatcher. Alexandria authorities want to question him as to the shooting of Police Sergeant Hummel three days after Hatcher's death.

Governor Price has issued a special commendation to the State's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, citing the apprehension of a criminal after he had been at large for eleven years, as "a remarkable achievement."

NEGRO HUNTED AFTER ATTACK

Bush Hills Woman Is Victim Of Criminal Assault

News

Ensley officers today were investigating a report of a Bush Hills matron that she was criminally attacked by an unidentified Negro who entered her bedroom about 4 a.m.

1-13-39

The woman, wife of a night taxi driver, told Ensley investigating officers she awoke to find the Negro standing beside her bed. She quickly switched on the lights, the officers said, but the Negro, armed with a pistol, commanded her to turn the lights off and then attacked her.

Birmingham Ala

As he fled after the attack, the Negro took 75 cents from the top of a dresser, according to the investigating officers.

The attack was the latest of several reported in the Ensley district in recent months and brought renewed efforts upon part of police in that section to apprehend the criminals.

ATTACKS ON TWO MATRONS PROBED

Second Incident Reported To Police In Bush Hills Area

Age-Herald

For the second time in less than a month Ensley police Friday were investigating reports of attacks on white women by Negroes. A Bush Hills matron reported that she had been criminally assaulted by a Negro shortly after 4 a.m.

Police quoted the woman as saying her husband, a taxi driver, had just left for work when she was awakened by the sound of someone moving in her room. According to police, the woman told them she switched the light on and found herself confronted by an armed Negro.

1-13-39

Before she could scream, police said they were told, the Negro pointed a pistol at her and ordered her to turn the lights off again. When she did, police said the Negro attacked her. Shortly thereafter the Negro was reported to have fled through the front door, but not until he had stolen [illegible] cents from the dresser.

Birmingham Ala

Attaches at the Hillman Hospital said the woman had been bruised in the attack.

Approximately three weeks ago another Ensley matron reported to police that she was awakened early in the morning and discovered a large Negro in bed beside her, holding her arm. She told police she screamed and that the Negro fled, taking $1 50 with him.

In the second case, police said the Negro had gained entrance through a rear door and that before the attempted attack had taken the precaution of unlocking the front door. In the assault which took place Friday morning, the Negro entered the house through an unlocked front door, police said.

"Double Cross" Is Charged Against Gov. Bibb Graves

Black Dispatch

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—Rev. Allan K. Chalmers, pastor Broadway Tabernacle and chairman of the National Scottsboro committee, this week released correspondence to support his charge that Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama had broken his promise to parole the last of the nine "Scottsboro Boys", now in prison for alleged criminal assaults on Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, girl derelicts.

1-7-39

The letter, released by Dr. Chalmers, stated that in December, 1937, Governor Graves, in conference with the pastor, Grover C. Hall, editor Montgomery Advertiser and Rev. Henry D. Edmonds, had declared that holding the four youths is prison, after releasing four others, indicted for the same offense was "untenable."

Oklahoma City Okla

In his letter, Dr. Chalmers told the governor, "You told us that it was your intention to parole the boys in the custody of the Defense Committee as soon as the pardon board had submitted its decision and time enough had elapsed for you to hear any that objected to the release."

Dr. Chalmers declared that the committee which he heads will call upon Governor Graves' successor, Frank Nixon, when he takes the reins of office, and ask him to make the Graves pledge good. Governor Graves' comment: "I have received the letter along with thousands of other threats, and I have ignored it all and shall continue to do so."

WHITE MINISTER OF NEW YORK RAPS GOV BIBB GRAVES

Globe

Says Alabaman Doublecrossed Applicants For Pardon Of Scottsboro Boys

1-13-39

New York City, Jan. 1 (ANP)—Rev. Allen K. Chalmers, pastor Broadway Tabernacle and chairman of the National Scottsboro committee, this week released correspondence to support his charge that Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama had broken his promise to parole the last of the nine "Scottsboro Boys,' now in prison for alleged criminal assaults on Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, girl derelicts.

Nashville Tenn

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GIRL'S ASSAILANT SOUGHT IN HALE

Victim, Knocked Out By Negro While Walking To Greensboro

Age-Herald

GREENSBORO, Ala., June 16—Nearly 50 state and county officers Friday night were searching throughout Hale County for a Negro who, Friday, attacked an attractive 18-year-old girl near here.

More than 200 persons, most of them from Greensboro, jammed the country road in front of the residence Friday. The hard shower just before nightfall dispersed them, leaving the search to officers.

Only a meager description of the assailant was furnished by the victim. She was walking toward town, she told officers, hoping that she would be picked up by a neighbor.

6-17-39

Scarcely 200 yards from her home, the Negro knocked her unconscious.

Sheriff J. B. Kirby placed every available deputy and nearly a score of specially deputized residents on the case.

Birmingham Ala

Bloodhounds from Kilby Prison, summoned by Capt. N. W. Kimbrough, of the State Highway Patrol, were brought here, but were unable to pick up the trail. Officers said the heavy rain apparently had wiped out the scent.

White Girl Traps Negro Masher

Advertiser

A "pick up" artist of a bold nature was taken into custody by Montgomery police early yesterday after officers had been tipped off by a young Montgomery woman.

6-23-39

The young woman told Detective Sergts. M. S. Chisholm and J. L. Miller that she received two calls from a man who told her that he knew her, asking her to meet him on a street corner. He refused to divulge his name.

Montgomery Ala

The woman said that when she received a third call she agreed to meet the man. After the third telephone conversation she notified the two detectives and gave the address of the meeting place.

Miller and Chisholm drove to the woman's house and trailed her as she rode to her destination in a cab.

Upon reaching the street corner, the man proved to be a negro, Ulysses Oliver. Another negro, with Oliver, fled when he recognized the two detectives.

Oliver was booked on a disorderly conduct charge.

Mobile, Ala., Press
June 19, 1939

ATTACK SUSPECT FLEES OFFICERS UNDER GUNFIRE

State Toxicologist Sets Up Lab Here for Probe; Victim Recovering

A colored suspect—who police seek for questioning in the attack and beating of a middle-aged white woman Saturday night at Government Street and Park Terrace—was the object of a widespread manhunt by city, county and state law enforcement agencies.

Officers searching the residence of this suspect early Sunday morning came upon clothing which led them to believe that the man now being sought is the guilty party.

The suspect, after conversing with the officers, fled under a barrage of bullets fired by Coastguardsman R. W. Findley, who had accompanied the investigating officers to the house. The officers were unable to pick up the suspect's trail.

A $50 reward for information concerning Herman Bell, the suspect, had been posted today by Police Chief E. V. Warren.

Arriving from Auburn Sunday to aid in the investigation were State Toxicologist H. W. Nixon and an assistant, Wilson E. Grubbs, who set up a portable laboratory at the Battle House. Conferring with the two at a late hour last night were State Solicitor Bart B. Chamberlain, Police Chief E. V. Warren and State Highway Patrolman Charles Bunkley and Floyd Davenport. Sheriff W. H. Holcombe is expected to join the conference today.

Meanwhile, the attacker's victim, who resides at a North Ann Street address, was reported showing "some improvement" at the Mobile Infirmary, where she is under treatment for serious injuries. The woman bore numerous bruises and is suffering from extreme shock hospital attaches said.

She was found Saturday night by two youths on the grounds of one of Mobile's most palatial estates nude and in a semiconscious state. She had been choked with a twine rope and badly beaten.

Following tests made with the portable laboratory, it was indicated the suspect might be the guilty party.

Mayor Charles A. Baumhauer announced he will confer with Chief Warren on the case this afternoon.

Two Negroes Deny Attacking Guilt

Advertiser

MOBILE, ALA., July 3—(AP)—Approximately 15 days after they were arrested, Herman Bell and Ernest Mitchell, negroes, will go on trial here on charges of criminal assault in connection with an attack on a middle-aged Mobile woman.

7-4-39

Both negroes pleaded not guilty when arraigned in Circuit Court here today. Trial of Bell is set for July 11, while that of Mitchell is scheduled on the following day. The pair was taken into custody last Wednesday, after a widespread manhunt in South Alabama.

Montgomery Ala

The prisoners, under heavy guard, were brought here today from Kilby Prison for arraignment. The courtroom was guarded by eight State Highway patrolmen, two city detectives, six sheriff's deputies, and three bailiffs during the hearing.

The middle-aged woman was badly injured when she was attacked in an exclusive residential section of the city, June 17. She is still in a local hospital, but is expected to recover.

Immediately after the hearing, the two prisoners, still surrounded by a number of heavily armed officers were rushed back to Kilby prison for safekeeping.

Two negroes held in an attack upon a middle-aged Mobile white woman were transferred there for arraignment today.

Capt. N. W. Kimbrough of the state patrol was in charge of a detail transferring the negroes from Kilby Prison, where they had been held for "safekeeping."

Alleged Attacker Found By Randolph Sheriff

8-16-39

EUFAULA, ALA., Aug. 15—Sheriff W. S. Gay of Quitman County, stated here Monday that Tang Peterson, 17-year-old negro wanted for an alleged attempt to assault a white woman near Georgetown was captured by Sheriff [illegible] of Randolph County, 15 miles from Cuthbert Sunday and would be tried in Georgetown court in September.

Montgomery Ala

He stated that the negro had been placed in an unannounced Georgia jail, for safe keeping, although he did not anticipate mob violence. He asserted he did not believe the report that the accused Peterson was related to another negro of the same name, who was connected with a notorious case in Birmingham of a similar nature a few years ago.

Advertiser

The capture of Peterson ended a four-day search which led through swamps and woodlands of southwest Georgia.

Dogs Trail Negro Accused By Girl

8-9-39

Accused of molesting an 11-year-old white girl George Merriweather, Jr., negro, who gave his age as 16, was captured early yesterday morning after what police described as the fastest, most grueling man hunt held here in recent years. Capt. J. R. Alford said Merriweather, exhausted with running and trapped on all sides by city police and highway patrolmen, surrendered meekly in a field near the Masonic Home, thus terminating a cross country chase of more than 12 miles.

Advertiser

Informed by the child's father that Merriweather had attempted to assault his daughter during his absence from home Monday, police quietly began patrol of a suspected area early in the evening, but were not successful in locating the negro until about midnight. The chase beginning in a corn field at the corner of Fairview and Cleveland Avenues when two county bloodhounds picked up the scent there, led policemen running and stumbling in a semi-circular course which skirted the town and flared into open country and ended near the Masonic Home.

8-9-39

Among those who participated in the hunt of Merriweather were: M. S. Chisholm, J. L. Miller, D. W. Keener, W. C. Frizzle, Capt. J. R. Alford, Lieutenant T. H. [illegible], W. A. Cauthen, H. D. Johnson, L. A. Strickland, T. W. Berry, J. B. Rucker, and E. W. Hamilton.

Montgomery Ala

The negro, charged with attempting criminal assault on a child under 12 years of age, was committed to the county jail.

Negro Rearrested In Attack Case

Journal

James T. Drake, negro, was arrested a second time Monday by city detectives after a 60-year-old white woman swore out a warrant at police headquarters naming him as her attacker last Friday night. The woman said "the Lord told her" Drake was the ~~negro who entered her bedroom, assaulted her and left,~~ after stealing about $12 from her purse.

12-4-39

Montgomery Ala

Chief of Detectives Paul Rapport said Drake had been arrested Sunday in connection with the crime but released when investigators were unable to definitely link him with the assault. The negro, according to Chief Rapport, has steadfastly maintained his innocence.

White Woman, 62, Attacked By Negro

Montgomery detectives and fingerprint men searched last night for clues which would lead them to an unknown negro man, accused of assaulting and robbing a 60-year-old Montgomery white woman, about 1 a.m. yesterday.

Advertiser

Chief of Detectives Paul Rapport said two negroes were arrested in connection with the crime, but were released when their fingerprints did not match those found in the woman's bedroom.

12-2-39

According to Chief Rapport, the woman told police the negro surprised her in her room ~~and held~~ a knife at her throat threatening death if she should make an outcry. Rapport quoted the woman as saying she told the negro there were other people across the hall who would call the police. The negro, Rapport was told, laughed and said he had already searched the house and found it empty.

Montgomery Ala

After the attack, the woman told Chief Rapport, the negro ransacked her purse of $10 and then forced her at the point of the knife to accompany him to the door.

Detective Sergts. M. S. Chisholm and J. L. Miller, the first to reach the scene, said someone had cut the screen from a door and that several rooms showed signs of being searched. The woman, they said, was completely unstrung but did not appear to be in a serious condition.

The complete personnel of the fingerprint department investigated the house immediately and found several fresh fingerprints belonging to the same person. The case was under serious consideration last night.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

ARKANSAS

6247

4 Negroes Held In Arkansas Attack-Slaying Of Farm Girl

PINE BLUFF, ARK., May 5.—(AP)— Four negroes—a 45-year-old woman, two boys and a girl—were jailed here late today in connection with the assault slaying of dark-haired Irene Taylor, 19-year-old Altheimer farm girl.

Sheriff Garland Brewster said two of the negroes confessed shortly after their arrest. The others were being questioned. Brewster said first degree murder charges would be filed against all four.

Advertiser

One of the negro boys gave his age as 20, the other as 18 and the girl said she was 15.

5-6-39

Brewster said the negroes told him they seized the girl as she walked through a cemetery Tuesday afternoon "because she had a pretty box of candy they wanted and they thought she had some money."

Montgomery

The sheriff said the girl was clubbed, criminally attacked and strangled to death with haywire. He quoted the negroes as saying they hid the girl's body in some bushes and Tuesday night dragged it to nearby Flat Bayou, bound it with wire, weighted it with scrap iron and sank it in water two and a half feet deep about 15 yards from the bank.

Ala

The body was found there by searchers this morning.

Two Pine Bluff physicians, who reported the girl had been assaulted, said a deep wound over her left eye had fractured her skull and probably would have caused death had she not been strangled.

The girl was not missed until late yesterday. She and her mother had been visiting Miss Taylor's twin sister, Mrs. Lorene Terry, on a nearby farm. Tuesday afternoon Miss Taylor set out on foot to return to the home of her father, Lee Taylor, on the B. N. Word plantation. She never reached her destination. Each parent thought she was with the other until Taylor visited the Terry home yesterday.

A torn fragment of the candy box that indirectly brought about the girl's death led to discovery of her body. The scrap of pasteboard was found by Deputy Constable Pink Booher, members of a searching party, early today on the bank of Flat Bayou. The fragment had the girl's name written on it.

Within 100 yards of the place where the torn box was found, the searchers came upon her body.

The head was thrust into a gunny sack which had been fastened about the throat by wire. Her hands were wired across her breast and her feet wired together. The scrap iron, weighing a total of 78 pounds, was fastened to ankles and neck. She wore shoes and a gray woolen suit.

In addition to her parents, the girl is survived by five brothers and three sisters.

LYNCHINGS- 1939 D.C.
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

6248

Youth Says He Was Framed in Rape Case

WASHINGTON

Rape charges brought by a 23-year-old white woman against Robert Smith, 36, 2[illegible]26½ Georgia Avenue, Northwest, last week were branded false by members of his family, yesterday (Wednesday) morning.

Though reticent, even to refusing to disclose her name, a woman who admitted being the sister of the accused, told the AFRO that Smith had confided to his brother that he was the victim of a frame-up. She declared the family planned to await developments before giving a detailed account of Smith's side of the matter.

Attacked in Washroom

Smith was indicted last week by a District grand jury on the charge of Mrs. Marie Boussard, white, of Philadelphia. She told Assistant United States Attorney L. J. Krause that Smith had followed her into the women's washroom at a seafood restaurant in the 1200 block of E Street, Northwest, where he was employed as a waiter.

As she was about to leave, Mrs Boussard asserted, Smith grabbed her and dragged her back into the room where he criminally attacked her.

Employees of the place, one of the oldest seafood establishments were warned against discussing the incident. Smith had been working there for several years the sister hinted.

No Record

Mr. Krause declared that as far as he knew Smith has no previous police record. He stated further that he questioned Smith, Tuesday, as to whether he had retained counsel and was asked to wait until Thursday when a brother would complete arrangements for a lawyer.

LYNCHINGS- 1939

RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

FLORIDA

6249

Youth Says White Girl Framed Him

Black Dispatch

Declares She Threatened When He Refused Her

3-16-39

Tampa, Fla.—A colored boy who operated a downtown elevator, issued a statement this week in which he alleged that he did not seek social relations with any white girl, nor did he make any advances to the young lady at any time, but alleged she sought his company and threatened him if he refused. When he refused to see her, Leonard Strong, the elevator operator, claims she had him arrested and he was whipped and ordered out of town.

Okla City, Okla

His complete statement to a reporter is as follows:

"I have been employed as elevator operator of the First National Bank for a little more than five months. During the month of January I worked at night. In February I was changed to the day shift. For the past two or three weeks a certain white girl would catch my elevator regularly and began getting familiar in her remarks, seemingly jokingly. On Feb. 21 she gave me twenty cents which I accepted as a tip, thinking nothing of it. That evening she caught my elevator again and asked me for a date, which I refused. I told her I was afraid I might get into trouble and probably lose my job. She said if I didn't, I would be sorry.

"Thursday morning, February 23, I returned to work as usual, thinking of no trouble. Between 10 and 10:15, being on my relief, I saw this girl and one of the officials of the bank on the 13th floor conversing. I paid no attention to them and returned to my work after fifteen minutes relief. Later the engineer caught my elevator and advised me to return to the 13th floor and change my uniform, which I did. Then he told me to come with him. I did. Then he began questioning me as to my place of birth and travel, whether I had been any place besides Tampa. Sensing some conspiracy had arose, I ran and was overtaken, arrested and placed in jail. I was detained in jail until about 9:30 to 10 o'clock Friday night during which time I was beaten with a rubber hose, slapped in the face and questioned as to my having insulted a white woman. Then I was carried home and instructed to leave town."

6249

LYNCHINGS- 1939 GENERAL
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

6250

STUDY SHOWS RAPE LEAST AMONG NEGROES

New York, Jan. 30—The crime of rape in the United States is committed least by Negroes and most by foreign whites, according to statistics contained in a new book, "Crime and the Man," by Dr. Ernest Albert Hooton, head of the department of anthropology at Harvard university.

[illegible] 2-2-39 [illegible]

Dr. Hooton's figures show that the rankings in rape in America are as follows: Foreign white, 12.5 per cent; native white but foreign parentage, 6.2 per cent; old American, 4.7 per cent; Negroid, 4.5 per cent; Negroes, 4.3 per cent.

Excel in Some Crimes

However, Dr. Hooton's figures show that the Negro rates first in crimes of burglary and larceny, the rankings being: Negroes, 43.9 per cent; native white but foreign parentage, 43.7 per cent; Negroid, 39.2 per cent; old American, 38.3 per cent; foreign white, 32.8 per cent.

Dr. Hooton's statistics found that so-called pure Nordic types go in heavily for forgery and fraud. Material for the book was gathered over a period of three years by trained field workers. Nine years were spent at Harvard analyzing the material before the book was published.

Scientist Says Negroes "Indifferent" To Rape

8-17-39

WASHINGTON, Aug. —(ANP)—Negroes as a race are indifferent to the crime of rape according to the scientific findings of Dr. Ernest Albert Hooton of Harvard University, following a study of 17,000 criminals as revealed in a series of illustrations and published in a nationally-known weekly.

Dr. Hooton, regarded as one of the leading anthropologists in the country, has made charts and illustrations to indicate his findings. According to them, Negroes show the greatest propensity for burglary and larceny, with native whites in the second place. Fully 43.9 per cent of the criminals studied committing burglary and larceny were Negro, with 43.7 per cent being native whites of foreign parentage.

Philadelphia Pa Trib

Robberies are most frequently committed by the Alpine type, the short stout brunette, with Nordics showing the least tendency to this type of crime.

Sex offenses are most commonly committed by the type known as the Dinaric, with the Mediterranean and the Aplines following closely. The Dinaric type, according to Hooten, is a tall, flat-backed head and beaked nose type.

Interesting also is the declaration by Dr. Hooton that the "same physical type that specializes in robbery shows, in pro-social activities, a preference for the law!" In other words, if Dr. Hooton's theories are correct, Negroes and "Negroid types" should lead in this field of endeavor.

LYNCHINGS - 1939 GEORGIA
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

6251

Negro Who Made Alleged Improper Proposals To White Woman Is Freed In Court

JUDGE PORDAN DISMISSES CASE

[illegible] [illegible] Ga.

Judge Mercer Jordon of the Savannah Police Court made history Monday morning when he dismissed James Drayton, 24 year old Negro, who was charged with making improper remarks to a white woman.

While the woman, Mrs. Agnes Byorwick, preferred the charges against Mr. Drayton, in Court it was brought out that the improper prossal" had been addressed to another white woman and not her. Because the prosecuting witness know to police, Judge Jordon dismissed the case.

During the morning session Joseph Smith and his wife Mrs. Viola Smith were fined $10 or 30 days for fighting.

Ida Bell Hamilton, Willie Brown and Josehp Young were given 30 days each for whiskey.

William Groover, John

COURT FREES NEGRO

Hamilton and Mrs. Eva Groover drew heavy sentences for fighting. The men got $100 or 30 days while the woman a $50 fine or 30 days.

James Johnson, drunk $10 or 30 days.

Cain Hudson, drunk, 30 days.

George Robinson, drunk, $25 or 30 days.

Wallace Williams was sentenced to pay four one hundred dollar fines of four months for wreckless driving hitting another, leaving the scene of an accident, etc.

Aggie Abamy, 24, Julia Richardson, 26. Walter Butler 44, Mary Johnson, 29 Ida Wilson 25, and Daniel Rishardson were all fined $100 or 30 days each for whiskey.

James Tolbert, 35 drunk, $10 or 20 days.

Willie Chisholm, drunk, $10 or 30 days.

Bernice Brown, 28 drunk $10 or 30 days.

James Reed, drunk, $25 or 30 days.

Edward Forrester, fighting $25 or 30 days,

Heneritta Butler, drunk $25 or 30 days.

Ernest Kirby disorderly conduct, dismissed.

Joseph Monks, throwing brick throw window, 30 days

William James, wreckless driving $25 or 30 days.

Fight Extradition Of 14-Year-Old Youth To Ga. In Rape Case

Age 11-4-39
New York

The attempt of the State of Georgia to extradite Willie Lee Butts, 14, from New York City on a charge of rape in the Southern State will be opposed by counsel acting for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People when the hearing is held November 8.

At the request of the N. A. A. C. P., Attorney Donald Crichton of 240 Broadway, has interested himself in the case. Mr. Crichton consulted with Thurgood Marshall of the N. A. A. C. P. legal staff and announced that every protection afforded by the law would be extened the Georgia youth.

The youth was held on a juvenile delinquency charge here but the request of the State of Georgia forced the district attorney's office to ask dismissal of the juvenile delinquency complaint, thus leaving Butts at the mercy of the Southern officers.

The N. A. A. C. P. was informed of the predicament of the youngster and arranged to have counsel appear for him at the instant the juvenile delinquency charge was dismissed.

GEORGIA KEEPS UP FIGHT TO EXTRADITE BOY

Defender
11-18-39

Hearing Set For Nov. 8 Postponed Until Tuesday

Chicago Edi.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17—The attempt of the state of Georgia to extradite Willie Lee Butts, 14, from New York City on a charge of rape came up November 8 and was postponed to November 14 by U. S. Commissioner Fay of the Eastern District of New York.

Donald Crichton, lawyer, is acting for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the case. Mr. Crichton consulted with Thurgood Marshall of the N.A.A.C.P. legal staff, and announced that every protection afforded by the law would be extended the Georgia youth.

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The N.A.A.C.P. was informed of the predicament of the youngster and arranged to have counsel appear for him at the instant the juvenile delinquency charge was dismissed.

GIRL IS ATTACKED AND BEATEN HERE

Telegraph

Long Street Negro Is Jailed After Being Identified by Young Victim

11-30-39

Macon Ga.

After being slugged and choked, dragged into a Lynmore place okra patch and beaten almost senseless, a Macon young white woman early last night identified Homer Dobbins, 20 Long street Negro, as her assailant.

Held in Bibb county jail, where he was lodged within 40 minutes after the attack, Dobbins denied any knowledge of the incident, sheriff's deputies said.

Meanwhile, the victim, 21-year-old employe in a downtown department store, remained under care of a physician, who determined she had not been raped.

The physician took her to Macon hospital, where several stitches were required to close gashes in her scalp.

Pocketbook Not Taken

Deputies said Dobbins probably will be charged with assault with intent to rape. There apparently was no motive for robbery, they said, as the young woman's pocketbook was not taken.

The victim and officers reconstructed the attack thus:

Through work for the day, the young woman boarded the 7 p.m. bus headed out Houston avenue.

As she left the bus at Lynmore avenue and Houston avenue, about two blocks this side of the end of the bus line, the Negro also left.

She let the Negro go ahead before she started to walk down Lynmore avenue, she told officers. Then she lost sight of him.

When she had advanced about 250 yards from Houston avenue a man jumped suddenly from the okra patch on the side of Lynmore avenue and slugged her in the left side of the head.

He struck her repeatedly and dragged her about 15 feet out into the patch, officers said. Then he choked her.

Negroes living nearby heard some commotion, they said later, but did not pay particular attention.

Finally the young woman either beat off or frightened off her assailant and staggered to her home about half a block away.

When she entered the home, a member of her family reported, she was bleeding profusely and they at first feared she had lost her right eye.

She was put to bed and county police were summoned.

Deputy J. C. Calhoun and a member of the victim's family went in one direction and other officers scattered through the community.

They learned that the Negro had run to the home of Centennial Cornelius, Negro farmer living on Lynmore avenue.

"Hide me, I've ravished a white woman," Cornelius quoted the Negro as having said when he entered the house.

Cornelius said the Negro was drinking and that he took a bed slat and drove him from the house. Two Negresses were in the house with Cornelius and saw the Negro.

Meanwhile, Deputy Calhoun learned from Cornelius the name of the man who had been to his home and gave chase.

Identified By Victim

Deputy Calhoun recognized Dobbins as he was about to enter a Negro church at Charles and Peacock streets in South Macon. He immediately arrested the Negro and took him to the victim's home.

Telegraph
11-30-39

Dobbins was taken to the victim's bedside where she identified him.

"But where is his hat?" she asked. She said she could not be positive in the identification until she saw him with the hat.

Meanwhile, Deputies W. H. Bowden, Walter Waldron and Otis Stokes had investigated the scene of the attack, recovered the Negro's hat, the victim's hat, her glasses and pocketbook. Nothing had been taken from the purse.

Officers put the hat on the Negro.

"Lady, you've got the wrong man," the Negro is quoted as having said to her.

"You know you are the right man, you black rascal," she is said to have replied.

Fingerprints On Neck

Later she was removed to the hospital for treatment.

Officers said Cornelius and the two women who had been in his home when the Negro entered all identified him as the man who had asked them to hide him.

The woman did not clearly remember details of the struggle in the okra patch, officers said. She was beaten almost unconscious, they said and had been strangled until blue in the face. Fingerprints were plain on her neck, they said.

Deputies said there was evidence of a terrific struggle in the okra patch and they found marks where the woman had been dragged.

They also learned that Dobbins had been accompanied by his wife when they caught the bus from town. The wife, they learned, left the bus at Central avenue and proceeded to her home while her husband remained on the bus.

Dobbins was employed at a brick yard, officers said, and was free under bond in an assault and battery case made about three weeks ago.

Jail White Boy for Sex Crimes Blamed on Negro

Bee
4-2-39
Chicago Del

Sam Hryciuk, 19-year-old white youth, this week confessed killing two white Chicago women within the last eighteen months and admitted fifty attempted attacks on other white women, according to the police. Most of the crimes allegedly admitted by Hryciuk had been charged by police to "unidentified Negroes."

Police said Hryciuk admitted that he had raped, robbed and strangled Mrs. Bertha DeMeyer, 67, in her home last Nov. 11. He then confessed, according to the police, that on Oct. 9, 1937, he accosted Mrs. Caroline Schenke in an alley, struck her on the head with a milk bottle, raped her and left her for dead.

Rapists Attack 2 Women Sunday

Defender
4-29-39
Chicago Del

Fourth district police were again on the hunt for rapists this week after two women were treated at Michael Reese hospital early Monday morning for injuries sustained in attacks by morons in the area.

Miss Emma Allen, 18, of 546 East Forty-fifth street, revealed that three youths followed her when she alighted from a cab at Thirty-seventh and South Parkway, and after threatening her bodily harm if she screamed, dragged her into the weeds of a nearby prairie and held her prisoner for half an hour.

Two hours earlier, Mrs. Estelle Collins, 24, of 3301 Vernon avenue, reported a man had seized her as she passed an alley at Thirty-fourth and Vernon, and had pulled her into an areaway where she succeeded in fighting him off.

"WINDOW RAPIST" CLIMBS 2 FLOORS TO ATTACK WOMAN

Bee
4-23-39
Chicago Del

After a period of several weeks respite, the southside's terror-rapist began his moronic attacks on lone, unprotected women when he invaded the second floor bedroom window of Mrs. Frances Gordon at 5445 Indiana avenue, just before dawn Thursday morning and at pistol point criminally attacked her.

The rapist, catlike in his ability to scale walls to the windows of his victims, has earned the pseudonym of the "window rapist." He has forced his way into the bedrooms of several single and unprotected women threatening them with death if they resist his degrading advances.

Enters Open Window

On Thursday morning, about 5:30 o'clock, Mrs. Gordon told police, she was awakened by an unknown man who had obtained entrance to her bedroom through an open window. Mrs. Gordon lives on the second floor.

After threatening her with a blue-steel revolver, he attacked her and escaped. Police investigating found that entrance to the room had been effected by using the bars of a first floor window as a ladder.

The window-rapist's accuracy in forcing his way into the rooms of women who live alone has given rise to the conjecture that he keeps the activities and habits of his intended victims under surveillance, selecting the opportune time for his wanton attacks.

Woman Accosted on Street

Another victim of criminal at-ack was Miss Huldah Walls, 550 . 49th street, 22-year-old maid. iss Walls told police that she 'as accosted by a man who forcd her to submit twice to sex indignities. She said she was approached as she left home Thursay night and forced to go to 4840 t. Lawrence avenue.

Police Redouble Efforts To Trap Window Rapist

Bee
5-7-39
Chicago Del

Redoubling their efforts to capture the elusive, and now notorious "window rapist" police o both districts are working to brin about his apprehension followin the report of another attack on lone and unprotected woman thi week.

The latest victim of these wanton sex attacks is Mrs. Rosa Lee Ferguson, 4227 Indiana avenue 34-year-old housewife who was criminally attacked in her home around 4 o'clock Saturday morning by a man who forced his way into her bedroom through an open window.

And while the "window rapist" continues his attack, citizens of he community are becoming inreasingly alarmed at the frequency with which women are riminally attacked as they travel the streets unescorted. mong those forced to submit uner threat of death were Miss Hael Hudson, 4026 Calumet avenue nd Mrs. Rosa Lee Casey, 4719 orrestville avenue, both of whom vere attacked early Sunday morning a short distance from their omes.

Miss Hudson was accosted as she walked within a block of her home on Calumet avenue by a man who dragged her under the "L" structure in the rear of 4136 Calumet avenue and criminally attacked her. Mrs. Casey was stopped as she was about to enter the hallway of her home by a man who drew a knife and made her accompany him to the areaway of the building at 4723 Forrestville where he forced her to submit to sex indignities.

MORON ATTACKS TWO

Bee
12-5-39
Chicago Del

A daring sex moron who trails his victims to their doors and then criminally attacks them, is being sought this week by 5th district police, after two women reported they had been accosted and then raped by a man believed responsible for both attacks.

One of the women, a waitress, told police a man followed her to her home and then forced her to accompany him to the rear of the building where she was attacked. Another said a man followed her into the apartment building in which she lived and, after threatening her life, criminally attacked her on the stairway between the first and second floors.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

LOUISIANA

6253

La. Police Say Negro Suspect Confesses Attack Charge

BATON ROUGE, La., Feb. 10. —(ANP)—State police last Wednesday said that Dave Johnson, 33, of New Orleans, confessed that he had twice attacked a 20-year-old Louisiana State University co-ed, after robbing her and her companion. Johnson denied, however, being implicated in a robbery (two hours previously) of a storekeeper, M. J. Cambre, during which Cambre's aged father was shot and painfully wounded. Dist. Atty. Dewey J. Sanchez said the case would be presented to the E. Baton Rouge parish grand jury. Johnson was removed to New Orleans city jail as a precautionary measure. Cambre was reported as identifying Johnson as the man who held him up, then used his father as a shield for his getaway.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

MARYLAND

6254

Attack Attempt on Girl, 5, Is Reported

Afro-American

BALTIMORE

2/4/39

Residents of the vicinity of Durham and Fayette Streets were up in arms, Friday, about the report of an attempted assault on a 5-year-old girl living in the 200 block N. Durham Street.

Balto, Md.

The child, it was learned, had left her own home to visit her grandmother a few doors down the street on the opposite side. As she entered an alley alongside her grandmother's home, she was approached by a strange man, who reputedly enticed her to a vacant house on the pretext of giving her a nickel.

Attempted Abuse

Luring the tot to the second floor of the dwelling the man allegedly attempted to criminally abuse her. Before leaving he told her to wait until he returned, but the tot ran home as soon as he had disappeared.

An aunt took the child to Johns Hopkins Hospital where she was examined and given medical treatment.

Northwestern district police were asked to be on the lookout for the man. He was described as five feet eight inches tall, brown complexioned, and wearing a brown suede leather lumber jacket.

LYNCHINGS - 1939 MICHIGAN 6255

RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

Lied On Race Man To Make Himself A Hero

Courier 7-8-39

But When Police Question Him, Story About Attack Turns Out to Be a Hoax.

DETROIT, July 6—A tale told to police by a young white man who wanted to impress a young woman friend, was admitted to be false after he had set a posse of white neighbors on a search for a "Negro who had dragged a white woman into the bushes" on a West Side street.

The prevaricator, Clarence Jackson, 38 years of age, of 1712 Third avenue, confessed his falsification after questioning by police. Jackson told the officers that he heard the screams of the white woman, and had seen the man dragging her into the bushes. However, nobody else in the neighborhood, including the girl friend, heard the screams of the woman.

Jackson, in relating the story to the police, said that he had given chase to the man in an effort to rescue the woman. The story was taken seriously by the neighbors, and a posse was immediately formed for the apprehension of the alleged assailant.

6256

OUT 15 MINUTES, JURY CAN'T AGREE

Courier 2-7-39

Pittsburgh, Pa.

White Farmer and Colored Laborer On Trial In Criminal Assault Case.

LOUISVILLE, Miss., Feb. 2—(Special)—A mistrial resulted in the cases of Meredith Hemphill, white farmer, and George Reed, laborer, on the Hemphill plantation, charged jointly with criminally assaulting a 14-year-old white girl, when a jury in the Winston County Circuit Court here, after being out 15 minutes, announced it was unable to reach a verdict.

Though Reed testified as a witness at the trial, denying the attack charge and repudiating an alleged confession that was introduced in evidence against him, Hemphill did not take the stand in his own behalf. The alleged victim of the assault, charged in her testimony that the two men kidnapped her, took her into some woodland adjoining the white man's farm, and that she was repeatedly attacked there during the several days and nights she was held prisoner.

WHITE KIDNAPERS JAILED IN MISS.

Desire of Four Whites for 'Social Equality' Led Them to Kidnap Colored Girl and Her Escort—Each of the Four Got 'Social' with Helpless Victim.

Courier [illegible]

GREENWOOD, Miss., June 15—(Special)—Yancey Delap, Ray Wilson, Buster Richards and Douglas Hooks, white men, are being held in jail here on the charge that on the night of May 31, they kidnaped a colored girl and the man who accompanied her, and carried them in an automobile for some 10 miles into a sparsely settled wooded section, where the girl was criminally assaulted.

Delap is said by officers to have confessed, stating that the girl and her escort were kidnapped at the point of a pistol, on a Greenwood street and forced to enter the car. All four attacked the girl, the man who was with her being held a struggling but helpless witness to the crime, under the muzzles of several pistols. All four white men then got back in the car, leaving their two victims at the scene, and returned to town.

Preliminary trials of the accused have not yet been set. It is possible each may face a more serious charge than that now pending against them, as the condition of the girl is said to be serious.

Four Whites Seeking 'Social Equality' Violate Federal Kidnapping Law

Plaindealer 6-23-39

Kansas City

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (Special) — Yancey Delap, Ray Wilson, Buster Richards and Douglas Hooks, white men, are being held in jail here on the charge that on the night of May 31, they kidnapped a colored girl and the man who accompanied her, and carried then in an automobile for some 10 miles into a sparsely settled wooded section, where the girl was criminally assaulted.

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6257

LYNCHINGS - 1939 NEW JERSEY
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

Accused Man Goes Free In Attack Case

Plaindealer

1-6-39

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—A jury of twelve white men freed Royal Massie on Wednesday of attempted assault and robbery after a pretty white girl, Miss Lillian Farber, timidly pointed an accusing finger toward him and declared: "This is the man."

"If I were on the jury," said Judge Robert V. Kinkead, "I would credit the plaintiff's description of her attack but would say she had made an honest mistake in accusing this particular defendant." Testimony revealed that Massie was at work in another city when the attack occurred.

Kansas City

Roger M. Yancey of the defense counsel, admitted that Miss Farber had been brutally attacked and that her attacker should be punished.

"But our defense is simple," he declared. "Royal Massie is not the man."

WIFE NOT WORRIED

Massie's pretty wife, who one officer testified, "looked almost like white," sat calmly on a front bench during the trial and seemed more worried over the restlessness of the couple's three children than over the outcome of the case.

"I am glad my husband is free but I knew he would be all the time," she said afterward.

Miss Farber told how she got up to wait on a man in the millinery store of Samuel Davidson at 452 Jackson avenue the afternoon of September 19. She said the man immediately took a chair leg from beneath his coat and started beating her over the head.

6257

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

NEW YORK

Grocery Clerk Charged With Rape

Age
1-7-39
New York

A high bail of $10,000 is holding a Brooklynite, who said he was John Williams and supposedly living at 1818 79th street, for the alleged rape of a white maid. The defendant was arraigned Thursday before Magistrate Troy in Felony Court. Williams is awaiting action of the Brooklyn Grand Jury.

Described as a young man, he was arrested by Detectives Hannon and Boyle of the 62nd squad. They were told by Irene Richard, the maid, 25, and who works in an apartment at 1850 81st street, Brooklyn, that the accused man attacked her on December 3rd.

Williams was said to be employed by a grocer from whom the maid's employer, Mrs. Roth buys goods. On the afternoon of December 3rd, she swore last week to the judge, Williams called at the apartment on the second floor of the building to collect milk bottles. She testified that she was alone.

Miss Richard complained that the defendant tried to kiss her, which advances she resisted. She charged she was then forcibly taken to the living room, and thrown on the couch where, she told Magistrate Troy, rape was committed.

In the complaint against the grocer's helper the maid said she is not the wife of the defendant.

By G. C. MILLER

Age
1-28-39
New York

What may deevlop into a Brooklyn version of the Scottsboro case was uncovered last week with the discovery of the arrest of John Williams, 22-year-old handyman of the Bensonhurst section. Williams, who lived with his wife, Evelyn, at 7709 18th avenue, is now in Raymond street jail in $10,000 bail on an allegedly framed-up charge of rape.

Williams was arrested on December 29 on a charge of rape filed by Irene Richards, 25, white maidservant in the employ of J. Roth, a former employer of Williams. The young Negro handyman worked for Roth in the latter's cleaning estblishment until the middle of December at which time he quit the job to take a better offer from a neighborhood grocer.

Friends of the imprisoned youth allege that Roth approached Williams and demanded that he return to his employ. Upon Williams' refusal, Roth is said to have threatened to "fix" him by reporting to the police that Williams had raped the Richards girl. To this Williams is alleged to have retorted: "If anything has been done to her, you did it. You go home to lunch every day and stay two or three hours."

Shortly afterwards, Williams was arrested upon a complaint in which the Richards girl charges that the alleged rape occurred on December 3. No explanation was given for the lapse of twenty-six days between the date of the "crime" and the date of arrest.

Upon learning of Williams' arrest, neighborhood merchants and housewives for whom the young Negro had done odd jobs over a period of five years immediately swung into action in his behalf. Characterizing the rape charge as a "dirty frame-up," mass meetings have been held to enlist the sympathies of the neighborhood on behalf of Williams. These friends have expressed their willingness to bail Williams out if they can get the sum reduced. To this end the International Labor Defense has entered the case for the defense in charge of Attorney Irving Glassman.

A Friday night mass meeting in the 84th Street Y.M.C.A. disclosed that Williams will be brought before the Kings County Grand Jury for indictment at an early date. An attempt to enlist the support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was made on Friday afternoon when the story of the case was placed in the hands of Thurgood Marshall, N.A.A.C.P. attorney. Meanwhile, Mrs. Evelyn Williams, wife of the framed prisoner, has been compelled to leave the 18th avenue address and obtain a job in order to support herself during her husband's incarceration.

Accused of Rape Attempt Is Held In $25,000 Bail

Age
2-4-39
New York

After being accused by a white woman of attempted rape, a man who described himself as James Thomas, 28, of 378 Hancock street, was held in the extremely high bail of $25,000 for the Grand Jury.

Helen Van Pelt, a member of a socialite family, living at 43 McDonough street, is the complainant. The defendant was arraigned on January 21 following his arrest by Detective James Cahill of the 79th precinct.

Miss Van Pelt claims that on January 21 at 3 a. m. the defendant followed her into the hallway at 43 McDonough street. She ascended three flights of stairs and still discovered him behind her, she said. He then allegedly knocked her down to the floor, put his hands under her clothing and tried to rape her, she testified.

The resulting commotion awakened occupants of the building. The accused man is said to have rushed down the stairs and out into the street where two tenants grabbed him.

COMMITTEE TO AID 'FRAMED' YOUTH FORMED

Defender

25 Organizations To Fight For New York Boy Accused Of Rape

2-25-39
Chicago, Ill.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24—Delegates last week representing 25 Brooklyn organizations at a conference formed a committee for the defense of John Williams, held in jail on charges of rape.

Williams' case has aroused considerable indignation in the community because of the obvious trumped-up nature of the charges against the boy.

Edward Kuntz, of the International Labor Defense and main speaker at the conference described the flimsy nature of the charges against Williams, stressing that 26 days had elapsed between the alleged rape and the filing of charges by the white girl complainant.

Kuntz, who is well-known for his work in the Scottsrboro case, urged the development of a broad community protest movement.

The conference was sponsored by leading Brooklyn citizens, including the Rev. Edward E. Chipman of the local Congregational church, who presided; City Councilman Louis Hollander, who knows Williams personally; former Assemblyman S. A. DeMatteo of the Sixteenth assembly district; Rev. Mulford E. Simonson of the Cropsey avenue Congregational church; Alexander Hoffman of the Cleaners and Dyers union; Max Kaplan, secretary of the Joint Board of Bakers of Greater New York; George J. Blake, chairman of the Communist party of the Sixteenth assembly district, and Drs. Max Axelrod, Fred Weinberg and Charles Berney.

Reverend Chipman was unanimously elected chairman of the defense committee whose temporary headquarters are at 112 East Nineteenth street, New York City, care of the I. L. D.

Negro 'Rape Frameup to Be Appealed

Oct. 30 Set for Hearing In Brooklyn Case of Negro Youth

Daily World
10-14-39
Atlanta, Ga.

The case of John Williams, the Negro youth who was convicted on a frame-up charge of rape in Brooklyn recently, will reach its climax soon in the Appelate Division of the State Supreme Court Second Department, Brooklyn, according to the International Labor Defense.

The Appelate Division, the ILD announced, has definitely set the date for the final hearing on October 30. Briefs submitted by the defense attorneys and have already been reviewed by the Appelate Division.

Attorneys for Williams base their hope for reversal on the several objections that were included in the briefs. Some of those objections were: no adequate corroborating witness as specified by law in charges of rape; no adequate medical examination as required by law; an anti-Negro judge tried the case; no Negro included in the panel from which the jury was drawn, in violations of the federal constitution.

If the Appelate Division should reverse the decision of the last trial, according to the ILD, either John Williams will be released or the district attorney will have to grant him a new trial. In the latter case, it was pointed out, there would be an excellent chance of the youth's getting his freedom.

On the basis of the foregoing, the International Labor Defense is calling for the widest community support for John Williams, declaring that such support will be in reality a fight for equal rights for the Negro people of Kings County.

In response to the ILD appeal the defense committee formed to aid the youth will hold a mass meeting at the Carlton YMCA Brooklyn, at 8:30 Monday evening. The committee is asking that all friends of justice, individuals and organizations, attend the meeting.

Hold Brooklyn Youth On Charge Of Attack On White Girl In Flatbush

Age 11-25-39

New York

After a two months search, detectives located an 18-year old youth, who was already in jail, in an alleged attack on a 20-yard-old white girl in a vacant lot in East Flatbush early in September.

Detective William Lankenau of the Empire boulevard station found the suspect, who said he was Archie Miller of [illegible] Linden boulevard, in a Manhattan jail awaiting trial in his petty larceny case, pending since October 27. The plainclothesman arraigned Miller on a short affidavit.

The girl, Dorothy Kelminson, of 389 East [illegible]th street, had her jaw broken by her attacker, and was robbed of 40 cents and $15 in jewelry after she was dragged into a lot at Utica avenue and Lenox road. The victim is said to be still suffering from nervous shock and unable to appear in court.

Miller was held without bail for the Grand Jury by Magistrate Jas. A. Blanchfield.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

OKLAHOMA

What Color Is Rape?

10-28-39

Black Dispatch

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Just how prejudiced and narrow Negroes are is something hard to guage, but every once in while incidents crop out to offer evidence of this shortcoming.

A few weeks ago the Black Dispatch reported the arrest, trial and conviction of a pioneer Negro, a confessed rapist. We published this story and all of the details surrounding the commission of the act and the aged man's statement to the court.

Immediately The Black Dispatch was showered with criticism because of the publication of this story. One particularly nasty letter was written the editor, together with phone calls and statements relayed to us from the streets. In the mind of folk we are talking about the public should have been kept in utter darkness of this crime. A racial skeleton should be hidden.

But for 25 years The Black Dispatch has been making a practice of publishing similar crimes, when white men committed rape against Negro females. Whenever we find a story of any sort relating to the commission of this crime upon Negro girls by white degenerates we always bring it to prominent notice on the front page, but in no instance have we ever had a protest from a Negro saying the public should not have this information.

Now what relationship does color have to the crime of rape? If a girl's virtue is ravished the morality of the act does not begin or end in color. Why have no Negroes protested to The Black Dispatch in the past twenty-five years, when we published stories of white rapists?

There is only one answer to the above question and that answer spells "prejudice." The Black Dispatch has not made a specialty of publishing this type of news about white people because we felt that white folk were more inclined towards rape than Negroes, but we have followed this practice in order to offset a type of propaganda which caused millions of white people and thousands of Negroes to assume that Negro men are potential rapists.

10-28-39

We recall that several years ago when the Southern Sociological Congress met in Atlanta, Georgia to protest against the crime of lynching, they incooperated in their resolutions a statement daming to the Negro. These kindly white people, who wanted to help black folk, ended their statement to the country by saying that something must be done to teach Negroes that they must not rape white women, or words generally to that affect.

Since that time the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Negro journalists over the nation have been compiling statistics covering the crime of lynching. We have been able to show that only three fourths of the victims of lynch law were charged with the crime of rape and that white men who black their faces and those who do not are just as numerous, in proportion to population ration as Negroes. It has been by this method that the N. A. A. C. P. has been able to clear the good name of Negroes before the eyes of the world.

But nothing that we have done in the publication of crime statistics has had for its objective hiding Negroes who commit henious crimes. In fact we feel that it is beneficial to the group to print the truth about the race, whatever it is. The fact this man, who raped a little innocent child, was a deacon in the Baptist church and an ex-soldier should not give him any shelter from the public gaze. In fact the publication of this story ought be a great lesson to older men, who might be slipping into evil ways, just as did this man.

But the main point we wish to make in this statement is that Negroes who complain against publishing rape stories about Negroes, and yet offer no protest when such facts are published about white people, are dominated by the same unreasoning prejudice as whites who define rape in color.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

SOUTH CAROLINA

6260

Anderson, S. C., Mail
April 19, 1939

GREENVILLE WOMAN TALKS NEGRO OUT OF ASSAULTING HER

GREENVILLE, April 19—A 32-year-old negro farm laborer was whisked to an unannounced jail early yesterday afternoon after the office of Sheriff John A. Martin had received a report that he had attempted an assault of a 33-year-old white woman at her farm home near Greenville.

The negro was arrested as he was plowing in a field of the woman's husband. Sheriff John A. Martin and Deputies Sam Pollard, H. C. Harrison and Earl Daniel made the arrest.

Sheriff Martin said the woman was hit on the head with a shotgun and that a handful of hair was pulled from her head. He said the negro admitted using the shotgun, but said robbery and not assault was his motive.

The victim was not criminally attacked. She succeeding in dissuading him from his announced purpose after he had forced her from the kitchen of her own home and into a nearby barn with a shotgun pointed at her. She was later treated at a doctor's office for bruises and scratches.

The victim, an attractive, auburn-haired woman of pleasing appearance, recounted details of the molestation to a newspaper reporter. She said that the negro, who was employed on her husband's farm, entered the kitchen while she was alone in the house with a request for kerosene with which to loosen a part on a plow. Before she realized his intentions, she said, he had seized her from behind.

She said that both fell to the floor and that she fought him on even terms until after several minutes they had tumbled toward a sideboard behind which was kept a shotgun. The negro seized the shotgun and held her at bay with it.

The negro, she said, prodded her toward the barn and midway between the barn and house cocked the weapon. At this point, she screamed, but no help came.

Inside the barn, she began telling him of the consequences he might expect. At that point, she said, the negro broke down and cried. He asked if she would refrain from telling her husband of the encounter if he would leave. Seeking any pretext, she agreed. The negro left.

A short while later, a neighbor woman came by while the victim was trying to regain her strength by resting in a chair. Fearful of what might happen if her husband found out, she requested the neighbor to ride in to the sheriff's office for help. The neighbor immediately reported the attempted attack to Sheriff Martin and a short while later the negro was being rushed out of the county.

The victim said that while they were in the barn the negro said he would kill her first and then himself. It was only after several minutes of remonstration, she said, that he agreed to leave without bothering her further.

The victim said that the negro had left his wife at work in the field when he set out for the house. He told his wife, the victim said, that he was going into another field to get a plow part.

Writes 'Fay' Girl Gets 15 Years

Argus

9-15-39

GREENVILLE, S. C., (By Henry S. Percival for ANP)—Jerry Owens, 31, a bootblack, was found guilty Saturday of assault with intent to ravish a young white woman. He was sentenced by Judge L. D. Lide to 15 years in prison, following a trial marked by clashes between defense counsel and the oposition.

The complainant in the case was a young white woman employed in a popular priced eating place next door to where Owens was employed as a bootblack. She testified that Owens often ate in the kitchen of the establishment where she was employed, and always insisted that she wait on him. In addition, Owens often left tips for her. On one occasion she said Owens told her, "You are the best girl in the world." On July 15, she said, Owens handed her a note which read as follows: "I have got something to tell you. That is, if you can take it. Let me know by shaking your head. The best dam' girl I ever seen in the world."

[illegible]

Convict Young Civic Worker

Victim Was Active In Registration Drive

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—Was William Anderson, 19, president of the Greenville Negro Youth Council of the local NAACP and active in the effort to register colored voters for the city elections next month, "framed" by whites when he was convicted last week of trying to make a date with a 15-year-old white girl?

[illegible]

Many local citizens believe so. Last Monday he was convicted and placed under bond of $5,000 for a year by Magistrate Louis E. Smith, on breach of peace changes and sentenced to serve 30 days or pay a $100 fine for disorderly conduct. It is being said that if he keeps quiet and not too much effort is put forth in his behalf by local citizens, he will be released soon on condition that he leave town immediately.

8-2-39

ACTIVE AT COURTHOUSE

Anderson, a janitor at the city junior high school, was very active July 6, at the courthouse and city hall in directing colored citizens where and how to register. He talked freely to reporters on Negro registration and engaged in an argument with Fred V. Johnson, leader of the Klan whose threats against Negro voting have brought an investigation by the federal department of justice, going so far as to shake his finger in Johnson's face.

[illegible]

Eleven days after this, Anderson was arrested on charges of telephoning the white girl for a date. She and her mother charged the first call came July 10 and a week later another call came. She had the second traced to the high school, she said, and the youth's arrest followed.

Anderson said two white boys came to school and asked to use the phone. He did not pay any attention to their conversation. When police came, he hunted for the white boys but could not find them.

THREATENED BY LAW

On the way to jail, the youth said one of the detectives told him, "You're the kind of 'N—r' I'd rather kill then take to jail. When we get through with you, you won't use any more telephones." However, Anderson asserted he was treated well in jail and was not beaten.

Despite Klan threats Negro, registration has continued, with over 300 having county certificates and 220 having city certificates entitling them to vote in September if two tickets are in the field. If only the Democrats have candidates, it is predicted they will not get a chance to use the ballot.

In most instances registration has been in protest of the city council's refusal to accept a federal grant of $800,000 for a low cost Negro housing project and failure of the city to provide a park for colored.

Southern Negro Gets 15 Years In Alleged Rape

Testifies He Can't Write, But Is Convicted on Written Notes

(Special to the Daily Worker)

Daily Worker

GREENVILLE, S. C., Sept. 25.—Jerry Owens, 31-year-old bootblack, was declared guilty here last Saturday and sentenced to 15 years in prison by Judge L. D. Lide, for an alleged assault on a young white woman.

9-26-39

The woman, employed in a restaurant next door to where Owens worked as a bootblack, testified at the trial that Owens often ate in the kitchen of the restaurant and always insisted that she serve him. She also said that Owens often left tips for her, and on one occasion she said Owens told her—"you're the best girl in the world."

On July 15, she said Owens handed her a note which read: "I've got something to tell you, that is, if you can take it. Let me know by shaking your head—the best dam' girl I ever seen in the world."

New York

Later on during the same day, she said she asked who wrote the note, and Owens is supposed to have answered that he wrote it himself.

CAN'T READ OR WRITE

When Owens took the stand during his trial, he testified that he could not read or write, but did admit that he had given the young woman a note which had been given to him by a white man.

The trial lasted three days. Owens' defense attorney, Joseph Tolbert, at the outset of the trial, asked that the indictment be quashed on the ground that Negroes were excluded from serving as jurors in violation of the Constitution. The motion was denied by Judge Lide.

Charge Frameup Of Leader Convicted For Asking Date Of White Girl

Plaindealer 8.4.39 Kansas City Kans

GREENVILLE, S. C., Aug. 4—ANP—Was William Anderson, 19, president of the Greenville Negro Youth Council of the local NAACP and active in the effort to register colored voters for the city election next month, "framed" by whites when he was convicted last week of trying to make a date with a 15 year old white girl?

Many local citizens believe so. Last Monday he was convicted and placed under bond of $5,000 for a year by Magistrate Louis E. Smith on breach of peace charges and sentenced to serve 30 days or pay a $100 fine for disorderly conduct. It is being said that if he keeps quiet and not too much effort is put forth in his behalf by local citizens, he will be released soon on condition that he leave town immediately.

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LYNCHINGS* 1939 TEXAS
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

6261

SAVED BY ABSENCE OF RACE JURISTS

AUSTIN, Tex., Feb. 23—(UNP)—Justice J. W. Hawkins spoke for the court here recently when he said that the case of J. D. Johnson, 17, was within the rule of the United States Supreme Court which provides that consistent failure to have Negroes on juries constituted a 'prima facie case of the denial of equal protection which the Constitution guarantees."

Johnson had been convicted of assault on a white woman, but his death penalty assessment was reversed by the Court of Criminal Appeals last Wednesday and Johnson's indictment was dismissed through the intervention of Justice Hawkins.

Railroad Man To Electric Chair On Doubtful Charge

DALLAS, Sept. 1—(By Fritz Cansler for ANP)—Here is one for the statistician who compiles the lynching figures for the year-book. About 10 days ago near the small Texas hamlet, Terrell, 30 miles from Dallas, a white woman reported that she had been the victim of a criminal assault and she gave the police the description of a Negro man as the perpetrator. For a whole day and night a "posse" of citizens searched for the assaulter until finally a man was found who seemed to answer the description, near Ben Wheeler, a few miles from the place the crime is alleged to have occurred. The Negro, heavily mangled, was hurried to Dallas' lynchproot jail and promptly indicted for criminal assault, a capital offense in Texas.

With the speed with which such cases are handled in the South, under a change of venue the Negro, guarded by 15 officers and a half dozen Texas rangers, state police, left the Dallas jail at 3:30 a. m. last Monday for Kaufman in an adjoining county. Promptly overruling a defense motion to quash the indictment on the claim of racial discrimination in the selection of the grand jury, and in the face of the statement of several witnesses, including Judge Joel R. Bond, chief justice of the Texas court of appeals, who stated that Negroes had never been summoned for grand jury service in Kaufman county, the trial was underway and testimony taken. After a characteristically short trial in which the Negro's life was at stake, the case was turned over to the jury, who deliberated for five whole minutes, and returned with the virdict "guilty as charged," with the punishment, electrocuiton.

Citizens commenting on the case are of the opinion that regardless of the guilt or innocence of the accused, that the presence of hundreds of spectators crowding the court room and the streets around the court house during the course of the trial, must have had their effects on the jury. Others have stated that five minutes is all too inadequate a time to consider the evidence offered at the trial, unless opinions of the jury had already been formed through newspaper publicity and other incidents which attend such a trial almost anywhere in Dixie.

Instead of jubilating too much over the published stastistics, the compiler who is really desirious of giving a true picture of the trends in the south must make some note of convictions of this sort. Mr. Year Book editor, in what respect does the above recital differ from the story of any other lynching?

9-2-39

Negro Railroaded To Electric Chair

DALLAS—(ANP)—Here is one for the statistician who compiles the lynching figures for the year-book! About 10 days ago near the small Texas hamlet, Terrell, 30 miles from Dallas, a white woman reportad that she had been the victem of a criminal assult and she gave the police the discription of a Negro man as the perpetrator. For a whole day and night a "posse" of citizens searched for the assaulter until finally a man was found who seemed to answer the description, near Ben Wheeler, a few miles from the place the crime is alleged to have occurred. The Negro, heavily manacled, was hurried to Dallas' lynch-proof jail and promptly indicted for criminal assault, capital offense in Texas.

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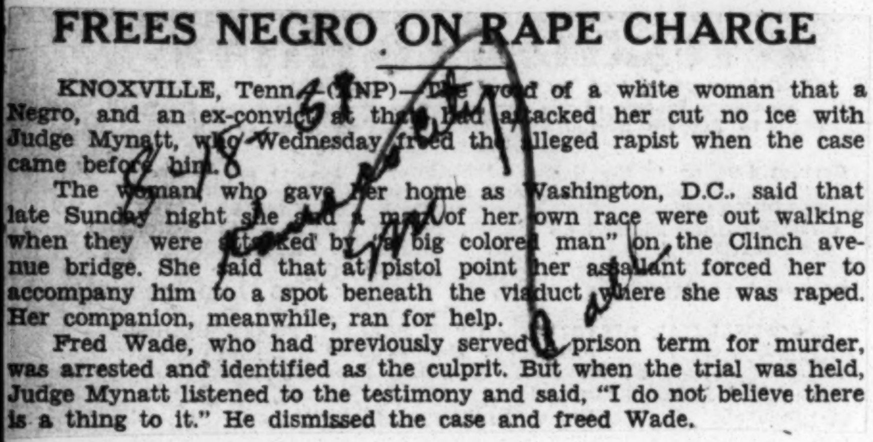
9-2-39

6261

LYNCHING - 1939
ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROS

TENNESSEE

6262



FREES NEGRO ON RAPE CHARGE

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—The word of a white woman that a Negro, and an ex-convict at that, had attacked her cut no ice with Judge Mynatt, who Wednesday freed the alleged rapist when the case came before him.

The woman who gave her home as Washington, D.C., said that late Sunday night she and a man of her own race were out walking when they were attacked by "a big colored man" on the Clinch avenue bridge. She said that at pistol point her assailant forced her to accompany him to a spot beneath the viaduct where she was raped. Her companion, meanwhile, ran for help.

Fred Wade, who had previously served a prison term for murder, was arrested and identified as the culprit. But when the trial was held, Judge Mynatt listened to the testimony and said, "I do not believe there is a thing to it." He dismissed the case and freed Wade.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

VIRGINIA

6263

A Judge Smites An Erring Lawyer

Journal and Guide
11-25-39
Norfolk, Va.

IN the Hustings court of Roanoke, Judge J. L. Almond presiding, a man was being tried for seduction under the Virginia code, said offense having been committed, it was alleged, against a young girl. Both parties to the suit were colored.

Up rises the lawyer for the defense to inquire "if there is such a crime as seduction among colored people." Immediately J. Henry Claytor, who had been employed to assist the commonwealth's attorney in the prosecution objected to the remark, requesting the court to instruct the jury as to such remarks by counsel. Judge Almond not only instructed the jury, but cautioned the defense lawyer that he would not permit the question of color to be raised in his court; that the same law applied to all in his court. From that point the trial proceeded in orderly manner and the defendant was convicted.

The incident is one that happens in some form in almost every southern court at almost every term. Sex crimes against Negro women, whether seduction, statutory rape, or the more aggravated form of rape, are not in many cases, taken seriously, and where an indictment is made by a grand jury, the offender generally gets off without punishment at the hands of the trial jury, chiefly because the lawyer for the defense raises questions similar to the one raised by the Roanoke lawyer. And, it is easy to raise these questions because, in many cases the courts do not object, the commonwealth's attorneys do no object, and there is not usually a colored lawyer in the case to object. It is easy to raise these questions, also, because of conventional customs which entirely disregard the sanctity of Negro womanhood.

There has been a noticeable change for the better in this deplorable situation in our local courts in recent months, although it is still too easy for an officer to get away because of a disinclination of grand juries to indict or of trial juries to convict upon the testimony of the victim, and such supporting testimony as may be had in such cases. There are, of course, marginal cases where an indictment is not justified, but the usual thing is to lump all cases into this category.

Judge Almond is to be commended for "smiting" an erring lawyer, while making a contribution toward the correction of a longstanding social injustice.

LYNCHINGS-1939
RAPE BY WHITES

ALABAMA

6264

Graves Offers $200 For Girl's Assailant

1-7-39

Gov. Graves yesterday offered a reward of $200 for the arrest of a white man accused of assaulting a small negro girl at Decatur.

Solicitor Melvin Hutson in a telephone conversation with the Governor from Decatur, quoted the girl as saying the unidentified man enticed her into an automobile on the pretext of giving her employment. State Highway Patrol Investigators J. W. McClung and Oliver McDuff were sent from Birmingham to investigate the case.

REWARD FOR ATTACKER

$200 Posted For Arrest Of White Man Accused Of Assault

News 1-7-39 Birmingham Ala

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— (AP) —A state reward of $200 had been posted Saturday for the arrest of a white man accused of attacking a young Negro girl at Decatur, Ala., several days ago.

Gov. Graves offered the reward at the request of Solicitor Melvin Hutson, and assigned State Highway Patrol Investigators Oliver McDuff and J. W. McClung to the case.

Hutson told the governor the victim of the alleged attack was in a hospital, her condition serious.

SEEK WHITE ATTACKER OF 13 YEAR OLD GIRL

Decatur, Ala., Jan. 9—(UNP)—Police are seeking the capture of an unidentified white man who attacked a 13 year-old colored girl, Ada Pearl [illegible]wen, it was disclosed Thursday. The girl who is in a serious condition, told Police Chief William [illegible] a white man criminally attacked her.

GRAVES SEEKS RAPIST

Offers $200 Reward for Apprehension of White Man Who Attacked Colored Child.

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

(Special To The Courier)

Courier 1-14-39 Pittsburgh Pa

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 12—A State reward of $200 was offered Friday afternoon by Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama for the arrest and conviction of an unidentified white man, who earlier in the day enticed a 9-year-old colored girl from her home near Decatur and then criminally assaulted her.

The child had been lured away by a promise of employment. The man then took her to a cemetery, where the attack occurred.

In addition to offering the State reward, the Governor also ordered the entire staff of special investigators for the State Highway Patrol to proceed to Decatur and assist local officers in their efforts to identify and arrest the perpetrator of the atrocious crime.

VICTIM OF ASSAULT IN DECATUR HOSPITAL

The small victim of the attack is in a Decatur hospital. Her condition is said to be critical.

Action by the Governor was taken immediately following a long-distance telephone conversation with Circuit Solicitor Melvin Hutson, of Decatur, who made a detailed report of the assault and requested State aid in hunting down the assailant.

Solicitor Hutson assisted in the prosecution at the last trials of the Scottsboro case defendants.

JAILED IN ATTACK CASE

Martin Moseley Is Held Here For Safekeeping; Another On Bond

5-7-39

Martin Moseley, charged with criminal attack on a 19-year-old girl at Eutaw, Ala., was in Jefferson County Jail Saturday for safe keeping after his arraignment before Judge W. G. Beipert, of Marengo County.

Sheriff J. F. Lee, of Greene County, said there were no threats against Moseley but that he was brought to Birmingham to forestall possible escape. Moseley waived preliminary hearing and was ordered held without bond for action by the Grand Jury.

William Evans ,24, Akron, Ala., also charged with criminal attack in the same case, is free on $5.000 bond. Moseley, who is 34, also is a resident of Akron but more recently had been working at Tuscaloosa.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

ARKANSAS

6265

White Man Gets Life For Attack On Race Girl

Daily World

4-8-39

Atlanta Ga

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(ANP)—For the first time in the history of Arkansas, a white man was convicted here Friday for attacking a colored girl. Elton Clifton, 23, of North Little Rock, must serve a life sentence for criminal assault on a 13-year-old child.

Clifton was convicted by an all white jury which deliberated only 40 minutes in the courtroom of Judge Gus Fulk. During the trial, Clifton's young wife sat beside him. The culprit exhibited no emotion. His mother bowed her head and cried, and his father looked at him silently.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Byron Bogard pleaded for execution, the sentence generally meted out to Negroes charged with attacking white women . He presented several witnesses of both races to prove that Clifton was in the vicinity of the assault on January 30, and placed the girl, who has been hospitalized since then, on the stand to describe the attack and identify the culprit.

A stick of candy, wrapped in green tissue was the most damaging bit of evidence. It was found in Clifton's truck. The girl said she dropped it there and a storekeeper admitted selling her the candy shortly before the attack.

The child said she was beaten with a blunt instrument by a man who forced her into his truck and took her to a deserted section of highway. She said she was attacked and then returned toward town and put out. A Negro and a white man got the number of Clifton's truck and police traced Clifton to a beer parlor. He denied the attack and offered an explanation for the blood found on his clothing.

Clifton's lawyer produced six witnesses who testified they saw Clifton at points distant from the attack site at the time the outrage occurred.

Though he protested his innocence, he was later identified at the hospital to which he was removed, by his victim, who said she was positive he was her attacker.

WHITE MAN SOUGHT IN BESTIAL CRIME

10-Year old daughter of Arkansas widow victim of brutal assault.

Mganolia,Ark.,-Aug. 31.- One of the most bestial crimes in the history of this city accurred when a white man enticed a ten year old girl away from her play on the pretext of hiring her to take care ofhis sick wife, drove her into the woods beyond the city limits and raped her.

The child,Corlee Brown, daughter of a widow who was at work at the time of the crime, was playing with some little companions at the edge of town when the man drove up, made several indecent remarks, then asked her to go to work for his wife. She unsuspectingly got into his car, was driven into the woods and victimized.

The man brought her back part of the way to town and put her out. A young woman who lives near the place where the child was pciked up, took the license number of the car and reported it to the police.

The same man had made an unsuccessful attempt earlier in the day to inveigle another young girl into his clutches bystopping at a Negro home and asking the mother if he could employ one of her daughters to work for his wife who he said was ill. The woman, not trusting him, refused. He has not yet been found.

Courier
9-2-39
Pittsburgh,Pa.

SOUTH'S WORST CRIME BARED

Courier
11-18-39

Pittsburgh, Pa.

HELENA, Ark., Nov. 16.—Earl Edwards, 30-year-old Pine Bluff white man, will face trial here as soon as possible after his recovery from a bullet wound received in an unsuccessful attempt to escape pursuing officers, for the criminal assault of a 19-year-old white girl which authorities describe as one of the most brutal and callous outrages of its kind ever recorded in this city.

Arriving in a hysterical condition at her home last Saturday night, the victim, whose name was not disclosed, told relatives of her terrifying experience. After attending a picture show, she said, she was making her way homeward at about 11 o'clock when as she was about to pass a local hotel, she was suddenly seized by a man who snatched her from the sidewalk into a dark alleyway before she had a chance to make an outcry and, threatening to kill her if she screamed, dragged her to the end of the alley, at the rear of the hotel, and assaulted her.

11-18-39

She said he kept her there for nearly an hour, repeating the attack, and let her go only after she had promised under a threat of certain death, that she would say nothing of what had occurred but would meet him at a cafe he named on the night following. When restoratives had been administered by a physician, the girl stated she was certain she could identify the man if she saw him again, giving police an excellent description of him.

A city-wide search was immediately begun, and within two hours, detectives spotted a white man answering the description given in a small eating place on the other side of town from the scene of the crime. As soon as he saw the officers, one of whom was in uniform, the man fled through a side door. They sped after him and when he did not comply with shouted orders to stop, opened fire. He fell, the bone in his right thigh fracured by a pistol bullet.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

D.C.

6267

JURY FINDS WHITE MAN GUILTY OF ASSAULTING GIRL

Tribune
7-15-39

Washington,

A jury, including three colored persons, found [illegible] Allen, 35, white, guilty in Justice James M. Proctor's District Court, Tuesday, of attempted criminal assault on a 12-year-old colored girl.

Testimony showed that three girls, whose ages ranged from 12 to 15 years, were playing in Pension Square Park around 9:30 p.m. on June 14. On their way home, they were allegedly accosted by Allen who offered them from 50 cents to a dollar in a proposition.

Drags Girl Into Alley

Being refused, it was charged that Allen grabbed the smaller of the three girls, who lives in the 700 block of First Street, Northwest, and dragged her into the alley. He pinned her arms behind her and attempted to commit rape.

When she screamed, he placed his hand over her mouth but the other two girls, armed with bricks and stones, tossed them at Allen until he was forced to free their companion.

Afterwards they continued stoning him until he fled to a nearby lunch room where the girls lay in wait until the arrival of Officer H. J. Peterson, white, who placed Allen under arrest.

Policewoman Marie Thomas took charge and presented the case to the grand jury. Assistant District Attorney Charles B. Murray prosecuted the white man.

Allen allegedly confesed when first arrested, but later changed his story contending the girls made an indecent proposal to him which caused him to make the offer to them.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

GEORGIA

6266

White Men Ruin Our Girls

Journal
12-2-39
Savannah Ga.

A white merchant down in Yamacraw paid a one ($100.00) hundred dollar fine this week after being caught with a 14- year old colored girl on the East side.

We wonder what would have been the consequence had a big 200 pound Negro been caught with a little 14-year old white girl? This all goes to show that Negroes are more even tempered than whites, and that they are willing to let the law take its course. Another thing, this particular case demonstrates is the fact that it is white men who violate the racial laws of segregation and not Negroes. Our men are satisfied with their women.

There are plenty more cases in Savannah like the Zipperer case. The Journal has first hand information on several, and is just waiting the opportunity to expose them. We have to put a stop to whie men ruining our young girls.

Yamacraw Merchant And Cuyler School Girl Fined $100 or 30 Days On Farm

Journal
12-2-39
Savannah Ga.

R. A. Zipperer, Yamacraw groceryman who runs a store on the corner of Fahm and Congress streets and Margaret Bennett, 14 an eighth grade pupil at Cuyler were caught together on the East side, accordin gto the testimony of the police who appeared against them in court Wednesday morning.

A lawyer appeared for Mrs. Zipperer and told the court that Mr. Zipperer had not performed the duties of a husband for a long time with his wife.

After listening to details of the romance between the little school girl, who looks 200 pound merchant and the to be about 12, Judge Mercer Jordan sentenced them to pay $100 each or 30 days.

The merchant managed to raise his fine and was released, but little Margaret who is called Gyp by her playmates, was still in jail at press time.

A reporter interviewed her mother who lives on Zubly street, and was told that she had given a lawyer $75 to get the daughter out.

Asked how little Margaret would do such a thing, the mother said it was more than she could understand. Margaret, she said, had been working for Zipperer for about two years, and at one time she started to take the girl fro mthere but the merchant insisted on her staying and Margaret wanted to stay.

Since Mr. Zipperer's release the mother said she went to him and asked why he would get her daughter in such a mess, and according to her, his answer was that he wanted a divorce fro mhis wife and didn't care.

Yamacraw is abuzz with rumors. Everywhere one goes down there some one is giving out free information about this latest white and black rocance which came to light this week in the police court.

GIRL CAUGHT WITH WHITE MAN RETURNS TO SCHOOL

Handles More Money

Journal
2-9-39
Savannah Ga.

Margaret Bennett, 14 year old eighth grade pupil of Cuyler, who was fined $100 or 30 days last week when she was arrested wtih R. A. Zipperer, a Yamacraw white merchant, returned to school Monday morning.

According to Prof. Hubert the principal, Mr. Zipperer appeared with the girl and her mother and explained that he had been framed by the Police Department. He also explained that he asked the white dailies not to publish the story and they didn't but that The Journal made a special feature out of it, and that he plans to try to kill The Journal because it did.

The principal said he called in little Margaret's teacher and asked about the girl's conduct. The teacher replied, he said, that her conduct is good in school; she is little slow in her studies, but she seems to handle a little more money than the average girl.

Prof. Hubert said he restored the girl to her class. Asked if he did not feel that she would corrupt the girls with whom she came in contact, he said he didn't know, but hoped that she would not.

According to reliable sources the girl returned to work at Zipperer's store.

Ministers' Conference With School Head Reveals Cuyler Principal Two-Faced

Mr. Strong Ordered Girl Caught With White Man Dropped

Journal
Savannah Ga.

Prof. J. W. Hubert, principal of Beach-Cuyler, was put on the spot here this week by the Baptist Ministers of the city in their effort to have Margaret Bennett, who was arrested with R. A. Zipperer, white, expelled.

About two weeks ago, ac-

Continued from page 1

cording to the ministers, they were appointed by the Baptist Ministers' Conference to make a thorough investigation of the case. After getting the record from the court and making an investigation in Yamacraw, they went to see Prof. Hubert about suspending the girl until the School Board could be contacted.

The principal told them he could do nothing, but tried to get the ministers to put their names on a blank piece of paper, promising to present it to Mr. Strong. This they refused to do. However, they told Prof. Hubert that as soon as the Alliance acted on their recommendations they would be back.

In the meantime, they charged Prof. Hubert was summoned to Mr. Strong's office and tried to discredit their findings and even ignored the court records, and told Mr. Strong that there was nothing to it.

Wednesday of this week the committee headed by the Rev. L. M. Terrill, Rev. Baker, Rev. Davis, Rev. Scott, and Rev. Wilson, went to Mr. Strong's office and presented him with the record in the case showing that at the time of the arrest Mr. Zipperer had in his car a turkish towel, bottle of vaseline and some rubbers.

Mr. Strong thanked the committee and said he could not see how Prof. Hubert could accept the statement of a convicted man in the face of the record; that Prof. Hubert used poor judgment and that he was ordering the girl dropped.

It developed at the conference that Prof. Hubert had called in a man named Eubanks, colored probation officer, to investigate the case. The school principal told Rev. E. Davis that Mr. Eubanks had returned his findings and that there was nothing to it. Prof. Hubert also told the Editor of The Journal that Mr. Eubanks made his report and among other things, according to Mr. Hubert, he said the white papers and the other colored paper didn't touch the story and that the Editor of The Journal should be run out of town.

The Editor's secretary called him and he refused to to talk other than to say that it is against the Georgia code to print the names of minors. However, Mr. Strong said Eubanks had not reported to him. By this time the committee could see that Prof. Hubert had tried to double cross them, and they went directly to his office accompanied by the Editor of The Journal.

The Rev. Terrill lit in on the principal and told him that his attitude was not liked at all by the committee, and Mr. Hubert not only admitted that he made a mistake, but he said he was misquoted that he did not tell anyone that there was nothing to the case.

One pastor after another questioned the principal and kept him busy, either trying to make apologies or findings an evasive answer.

Rev. Terrill told him that he hoped in the future he would respect the men of this city whom thousands of people have faith in.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

KANSAS

6268

LESTER McCRADY, CHARGED WITH RAPE, BOUND OVER TO STATE; BOND SET AT $2,500

16-Year-Old Complaining Witness Bursts Into Tears, Collapses After Grilling, Defense Cross-Examination

KANSAS CITY, Kas.(—Special)—Lester McCrady, 30year-old white man, charged with the rape of a 16-year-old Negro girl was bound over to the Wyandotte County district court yesterday afternoon and his bond set at $2,500.

Preliminary hearing of the case against McCrady was held in the city court before Judge Joseph McDowell.

The hearing began on Saturday morning, September 9, at 9 o'clock, was continued until Thursday morning at 10 o'clock and concluded the afternoon of the same day.

On both days of the hearing, McCrady, dressed in a gray suit, and seated behind his attorney, William E. Carson, chewed gum and conferred from time to time with his mother and his wife.

Saturday morning, following the crudely-barbed cross-examination of Carson, the attractive young girl who is the complaining witness, burst into tears and collapsed as she left the witness stand.

Testimony Substantiated

The state's witnesses included: Earl Hutchings, clerk in the Kansas City, Kas., police department, DeMoss, patrolman, Mrs. Rachel Howard and others all of whose testimony tended to substantiate the statements made by the girl who says she was assaulted.

According to the girl's testimony, McCrady came to the house where she was looking after Mrs. Howard's children, entered the house and attacked her. The alleged rape act occurred early the morning of Thursday, August 3. The girl was alone in the house with the Howard children at the time.

In charge of the prosecution of the case was Arthur J. Stanley Jr. Wyandotte County prosecuting attorney. Ulysses G. Plummer, attorney and David Wilhite Sr., special counsel, have been retained by the N. A. A. C. P. and the local Federation of Colored Women.

Call

White Man Faces Trial for Criminal Attack on Girl

Journal and Guide 9-9-39

KANSAS CITY, Kan., (ANP)—Unless the hopes and efforts of representatives of civic, religious and social organiaztions of both races of this city prove futile, the conclusion of the trial of Lester McGrady, white, now under a $2,000 bond for the criminal attack upon a 16-year-old colored girl, will result in a maximum sentence.

August 3 was the date of the reported attack. Last week preliminary hearing of the case was set for Saturday, September 9, at 9 a.m., in the division city court where Judge Joseph McDowell presides.

The continuance of the case was the result of a grant by Judge McDowell upon the request of the defense counsel, who claimed that an associate, David Carson, was out of the city on vacation.

Attorney W. D. Wilhite, of the legal committee of the local branch NAACP has been retained to aid the prosecution. His assistant is Attorney Ulysses Plummer; and others concerned include representatives of the NAACP and the Wyandotte County Association of Colored Women.

WHITE MAN TO TRIAL FOR ATTACK ON GIRL

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Sept. 7—(ANP)—Unless the hopes and efforts of representatives of civic, religious and social organizations of both races of this city prove futile, the conclusion of the trial of Lester McGrady, white, now under a $2,000 bond for the criminal attack upon a 16-year-old colored girl, will result in a maximum sentence.

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The continuance of the case was the result of a grant by Judge McDowell upon the request of the defense counsel, who claimed that an associate, David Carson, was out of the city on a vacation.

Atty. W. D. Wilhite of the legal committee of the local branch N.A.A.C.P. has been retained to aid the prosecution. His assistant is Atty. Ulysses Plummer, and others concerned include representatives of the N.A.A.C.P. and the Wyandotte County Association of Colored Women.

Courier

9-9-39

LYNCHINGS - 1939
RAPE BY WHITES:

KENTUCKY

6269

Mob Feeling Running High In Kentucky

Courier

State Police to Stand Guard When Trial of Two White Men Starts — Accused of Rape.

9-2-39

MARION, Ky., Aug. 31 — (Special) — Because of the aroused state of public feeling against the defendants, who are being held in the State penitentiary at Eddyville for safekeeping, County Judge E. J. Travis has requested that a force of State Patrolmen be sent here to aid local officers in the preservation of order, at the arraignment next Monday of Lloyd Gray and Hiram Perkins, white men, charged with the criminal assault of Miss Velda O'day of this place.

Pittsbgh
Pa

The alleged victim of the assaults is a member of a prominent family, and the daughter of a former Tax Assessor of this county. The homes of both of the accused, are in West Frankfort, Ill. An imposing array of legal talent has been engaged for the defense. The young woman's parents are dead and surviving relatives are all people of limited means, but friends have employed counsel to aid Commonwealth's Attorney Alvin Lisanby in the prosecution.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

MISSISSIPPI

6270

MISTRIAL CALLED IN ATTACK CASE

LOUISVILLE, Miss. — (AP) — The trial of Meredith Hemphill, 30-year-old white farmer, and George Reed, Negro, charged jointly with criminal assault on a [illegible]-year-old white girl, was ended today as the result of a mistrial declared last Saturday night in Winston County Circuit Court.

The jury, out 15 minutes, announced it was 7 to 5. Whether the majority was for acquittal or conviction was not divulged.

Hemphill did not appear on the witness stand. The Negro testified in denial of a purported confession to the attack which the state introduced.

The school girl testfied the men abducted her and took her into woods near Hemphill's farm. She was missing from her home here for several days.

Memphis Com. Ap.
1-23-39

LYNCHINGS -1939 MISSOURI 6271

RAPE BY WHITES

3 WHITES HELD ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Carnival Hands Accused of Beating and Robbing Cook

Three white men were arrested in a murderous assault and robbery on Marvey Jones, 36, cook, 5001 Waterman avenue. The three, although denying the crime, were identified by Troy Council, 15, 3409 Clark avenue, who told of observing them accost Jones in front of 3417 Market street about 1:10 p.m. Monday, knock him down and kick and beat him.

The prisoners were identified as Theodore Ruth, 28, Farmington, Mo., Cecil Melvin, 34, Bethany, Mo., and Henry Frederick Schock, 32, Eirreks, S. D.

Identifies Assailants

When taken before Jones at Phillips Hospital, he positively identified Ruth and Melvin as his assailants who attacked him after asking him for change for a dollar. Melvin also had blood on his right shoe.

The men, all connected with the Royal American Show, a carnival stationed at Laclede avenue and Grand boulevard, admitted being together in the vicinity of where Jones was found, and having been drinking.

At Phillips Hospital Jones was pronounced suffering from probable fractures of both jaws and head and face injuries, in a serious condition.

The trio was booked at the 8th District station on assault and robbery charges.

Charge White Men With Ravishing School Girls

Two Are Held After Parents Complain

St Louis Argus

Warrants were issued against two elderly white men Tuesday in alleged statutory offenses committed against two colored schoolgirls, [illegible] and 13 years of age.

Policewoman Mary Wilson and Lieutenant Clarence Lee and Detective Frank Crook made the arrests, after receiving complaints from the girls' parents.

Harry Edwards, 69, manager, 15 N. 3rd street, is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor and Lew Gott, 55, agent, 611 N. 18th street, with sodomy and assault with intent to rape.

The girls were taken from class at school Friday and questioned.

11-3-39

Offered Easy Money

According to one's story, about July 1 she was accosted by a girl who told her she knew where they could make some easy money and took her to a Salvation Army store at 2205 Franklin avenue, and the man who runs the store gave the other girl some money and they left. The girl stated she returned to the place about ten different times at noon, after school started and on Saturdays, and would look at books. One day, she stated, she fell asleep on the couch in the place and awoke to find Edwards endeavoring to commit rape on her, which he failed to do, but appeased himself by committing an unnatural act, after which he gave her 20 cents.

October 18 she stated she took the other girl in the case, a classmate, to a bus station, 18th and Washington avenues, and met Gott, who took them to a room in the rear of the office and here committed sodomy on the older girl. The two then visited the place at least once a week at noon time on at least three occasions and each time Gott mistreated her and gave her the sums of 15 or 20 cents. October 24 he told her to come back Saturday or Sunday and he would give her some more money.

Took Different Girl

The younger girl stated Sunday night she went to the place with a different girl with whom Gott had relations and afterwards she went to the show with the other girl. Later she said she returned with her classmates with whom Gott had relations and gave 20 cents.

The girl, who was alleged to have first introduced them to the men, was questioned, but denied any knowledge of the affair.

The girls were booked on charges of delinquency by being immoral, while the white men were held to await action of the court.

LYNCHINGS- 1939 MISSOURI 6272
RAPE BY WHITES

WHITES JAILED ON RAPE CHARGE

Courier

(11-4-39)

Pittsburgh

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 2.—Alleged intimacies between two elderly white men and two race girls, both of whose names are being withheld because of their tender age, resulted in the arrest of Harry Edwards, 69, of 15 North Third street, and Lew Gott, 55, of 511 North Eighteenth street Friday, October 27, on charges of rape. One of the men is also suspected of the more serious charge of sodomy.

According to available information, Gott is manager of a bus station branch at Eighteenth and Lucas, while Edwards is employed at the Salvation Army store, 2204 Franklin avenue.

The alleged intimacies between the men and the girls, one aged 11, the other 12 years old, started during the past summer. Since that time, it is reported, the children met the men during their school lunch hour at noon and after school in the afternoon. They are said to have received sums generally ranging from 10 to 20 cents from their elderly affinities.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

NEW YORK

6273

Accuses Two Policemen

Mrs. Wilhelmina Barrow, complainant against two plainclothes policemen who seized her on the street while making "policy" arrests, was found resting in bed under doctor's orders by The Amsterdam News cameraman.

Acts to Punish Policeman For Outrageous Treatment

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y. 4-22-39

With the support of a number of aroused, prominent Harlemites who describe the incident as "outrageous," Mrs. Wilhemina Barrow, petite young matron of 321 Edgecombe avenue, filed charges for civil damages for false arrest, false imprisonment and assault against two plainclothes policemen this week, after they had seized her off the street of Sugar Hill, taken her to the station house and had her searched in an alleged "policy" arrest recently.

An investigation of the affair, involving the officers described as Detectives Walter Walsh, Shield 7295 and Vincent Ryan, Shield 2883, was promised by Police Commissioner Valentine in a letter of reply to an emphatic note of protest from Herbert L. Bruce, Democratic leader of the 21st assembly district.

The charges were filed by Attorney William Pickens, Jr., counsel for Mrs. Barrow, and the case, characterized by local residents as "typical of the many in which innocent Harlemites have been victimized by careless or arrogant police recently has aroused wide interest.

According to Mrs. Barrow, who was found in bed to which she said she had been ordered by her doctor, the incident occurred when she was out shopping for a new hat. Only a month before, she said, she had returned from a five weeks' stay in the hospital where she had undergone an operation.

"I didn't notice them as I left the shop—located at 751 St. Nicholas avenue—but just as I neared 150th street and St. Nicholas Place, the two men grabbed me roughly and one of them tried to force me into a car at the curb," related the woman.

Manhandled by Cops

"Naturally, I screamed loudly—I didn't know who they were —but after I screamed, one of the men showed his shield and told me he was a policeman. I demanded to know what business they had with me but they just hustled me into the car and drove to the 152nd street police station where they searched my pocketbook and overcoat.

"They wanted to search me, too, but since they didn't have a matron at that station house, they took me down to the 123rd street station although I protested all the time and tried to persuade them to let me take them to several prominent people who could identify me.

"They finally told me they were looking for policy slips and when we got down to the 123rd street station a matron took me and searched me. When they didn't find what they were looking for they had to let me go," she concluded, grimacing at the memory of how the officers had "manhandled" her.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Mrs. Barrow has been living in New York—and on Sugar Hill—for the last 14 years, she said, having moved to her present address from 409 Edgecombe avenue shortly after the beginning of this year.

She has been a regular patron of the hat shop at 751 St. Nicholas avenue for the last three years, she declared, and never before met with such an experience.

In his letter to Commissioner Valentine, District Leader Bruce decried the "too numerous cases of innocent persons who have been held up and searched on the streets of Harlem by the uniformed and plainclothes police," and declared that ". . . there is a very wide-spread sentiment against this condition."

Avers Cop Asked Her For a Date

Sugar Hill Woman Reports Officer to Station; Says He Was Drunk

(Photo on page 3)

Amsterdam News
New York N.Y.
Apr 22 1939

A white police officer from downtown, assigned temporarily to Harlem's 32nd Precinct, was accused this week of insulting a prominent Sugar Hill woman, Mrs. Leola Bowles of 710 St. Nicholas avenue. The officer accused is Patrolman Bentley of the Seventh Precinct, [illegible] street.

"He walked out of a tavern at Lenox avenue and 145th street Monday night and offered me a dollar, if I'd go with him to what he called his love nest," Mrs. Bowles said.

At her request, The Amsterdam News learned, Patrolman Bentley was asked to report to the W. 135th station Monday night, several minutes after the alleged insult, where he was questioned by superior officers.

Lieut. Costello, on duty at the 32nd Precinct Tuesday afternoon at 4:30, confirmed the report that Bentley had been brought in and examined for intoxication. "The Police Surgeon said that the officer was not drunk," Costello declared. "The man just had a cold, that was all. I wish you fellows wouldn't ask about such cases anyway," he went on, "because you only put me on the spot. See the Captain about it."

The Captain was "off duty" Tuesday. A check at Police Headquarters brought a similar statement. A clerk in Commissioner Valentine's office referred reporters back to the 32nd Precinct. At the Seventh Precinct, where Bentley is usually assigned, no details of the complaint made by Mrs. Bowles were made public. "I understand," said another clerk, "that Bentley was sick. He's a good guy, you know. The records here show that he is also sick today (Tuesday)."

Nevertheless, Mrs. Bowles insisted that she would not allow the officer to get away with making such remarks to Harlem women.

"I intend seeing to it that he is punished properly for such conduct," she declared.

Mrs. Bowles is employed in the Lorenzo Dabney Funeral Home, which is located at the St. Nicholas avenue address. In the event that no action is taken on the case by next Tuesday, she plans to take the matter direct to Inspector Butler, who was recently assigned to the Harlem area.

6273

Assault On Female Charge Against Minister Is Heard

Recorder Borland, However, Postpones Judgment Until Today—Rev. N. A. Catlett Offers Several Witnesses In Attempt To Establish Alibi

Rev. N. A. Catlett, pastor of the Olive Branch and Cedar Fork Baptist churches, sought yesterday in recorder's court to establish an alibi in the case charging him with assault upon a female, Louise Lynn, 29-year-old Negro woman, of 811 Gerrard street.

Herald

The woman testified that Catlett came to her home about 4:30 on the afternoon of March 17 and under the pretext of wanting her to do some ironing for his family, persuaded her to go for a ride with him in his automobile.

4-6-39

After they had ridden for some distance in the Hope Valley section, Catlett took 50 cents out of his pocket, she said, and tried to induce her to have relations with him. She said she refused but that Catlett persisted and she finally agreed to meet him the next night at 7 o'clock if he would take her home.

When she got home she told her husband, she said, and he notified the police and Catlett was arrested the following night at the place where she had promised to meet him.

Durham N.C.

The minister brought several witnesses into court to testify as to his whereabouts on the afternoon the Negro woman claims he made indecent proposals to her. G. S. Newton, who lives near the Knapp of Reeds Baptist church, told the court Catlett was at his house between 4:30 and 5 o'clock on the afternoon of March 17.

The preacher, he said, came there to speak to him about acting as supply pastor at the Knapp of Reeds church. Newton said Catlett did not leave his home until around 5 o'clock.

4-6-39

Miss Daisy Hudson, clerk at the Malbourne hotel, testified that she saw Catlett in the lobby about 5:30 and that he wrote a letter and left it at the desk for mailing. The preacher produced a letter in court which, he said, was a reply to the one he mailed at the Malbourne on March 17.

F. G. Whitley, of the Camera Craft studio, told the court Catlett was in his studio around 6 o'clock on the same day. The preacher, he said, brought a photo to get enlarged and the envelope in which it was carried there was time stamped 5 p. m., March 17.

Catlett testified that on the following night, he went to the West Chapel Hill street section in search of "Stone's Grocery store" and that while looking for the store he was arrested on a charge of assaulting the Lynn woman. He said he never saw the woman until confronted by her at the police station.

Judge A. H. Borland postponed judgment in the case until today in order to give the state an opportunity of hearing the testimony of the Lynn woman's husband who was not present yesterday.

YOUTH GETS TERM ON MORALS COUNT

News and Observer

Rape Charge Against Selby Price of Plymouth is Reduced in Chowan Court

Edenton, April 4.—Selby Price, 24, of Plymouth, today in Chowan Superior Court was sentenced by Judge Leo Carr to serve 15 to 20 years in State's Prison for carnal knowledge of female between the ages of 12 and 16.

4-5-39

Price had been bound over to the court last week on a charge of raping a 14-year-old girl. The charge was reduced later by Solicitor Leo Carr. Price was accused of having attacked the girl near Edenton last Thursday night.

Raleigh N.C.

In another major case, Norman Outland was found not guilty by a jury of charges of attempted rape and breaking and entering.

Judge Carr sentenced two men for robbery of W. I. Cozzens' store. Cozzens' son, William, Jr., received a sentence of 12 months, suspended on condition of two years' good behavior; Woodrow Gay, who court attaches said is an old offender, was sentenced to serve two to three years in State's Prisn, with a 12-month road sentence, suspended on two years' good behavior, to follow.

Evidence was that the two robbed the store systematically by going on store roofs a block away, crossing over to the Cozzens store, and entering it by a skylight.

The case of Noah Bateman, charged with receiving stolen goods in this case, was remanded to recorder's court.

Crime Of The Week

Courier

LENOIR, N. C., July 27—(Special)—Ransom Keziah, white man, who is married and the father of two children, is being held in jail here without bond on a charge of criminally assaulting a 17-year-old white girl. The warrant for his arrest, sworn out by the girl's parents, charges that Keziah lured the girl into his car on the promise that he would take her to town, but instead, forced her to accompany him to a wooded section some miles distant, where he criminally attacked her and drove away, leaving her to make her way back to her home as best she could. Her condition is said to be serious.

7-29-39

Happened To Be White ....And In The South!

Carolinian 11-4-39

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Nov. 2 — Pleading guilty to criminally assaulting a white woman and a colored woman, Roy C. Young, white man, was sentenced in Superior Court here Monday to serve two years at hard labor on the public roads for the attack on the white woman.

Courier

Though granted in that case, a prayer for judgment in the case of the assault on the Negro woman was continued for five years and may be granted and sentence imposed at any time within that period. No reason for postponement of judgment in the latter case was given by the court.

11-4-39

The extreme penalty for the crime to which Young pleaded guilty is death, which could have been invoked, in the court's discretion, in either case.

6275

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

OKLAHOMA

Two White Youths Shot Following Rape of Negro Woman In Oklahoma

Officers Admit Drunken Condition of Wounded Boys Who Cannot Account for Presence in Woman's Home

SAPULPA, Okla.—The rape of a Negro woman by white youths, resulting the shooting of the two criminals was revealed here Monday when Mrs Hallie Carter, 41, from her jail cell, told a pitiable story to attorneys employed by the state conference of branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

By long distance telephone Sunday morning, Editor Roscoe Dunjee, Oklahoma City, president of the state conference of NAACP branches called Mrs. Charles Clayton, president of the local branch, instructing her to secure the services of Attorney Amos T. Hall to investigate the woman's case. Hall in company with his associate, J. H. Deadmon, Tulsa, went to the county jail here and interviewed Mrs. Carter.

It appears that on the night of January 8, four white boys in a drunken condition went to the rural home of the Carter woman, and finding her alone, tore her clothes from her person, and while two of the boys held her, the others committed the alleged crime.

As the boys left the home Mrs Carter says she ran to her bed, securing a .38 calibre Colt's revolver wounding two of them.

The two youths shot by Mrs. Carter are Pete Romine, age 22, of Kellyville, and Mery Gardner, age 19 living at Gypsy, south of Bristow.

The Gardner youth, shot once through the tip of the left ear and once from his left side to the upper part of his right shoulder, is reported in a critical condition from a punctured spine that the examining physician, Dr. C. B. Reese of Sapulpa, told county officers would probably result in his being paralyzed from the hips down.

Following the near-fatal shooting two of the boys fled and notified officers about what had happened. They are not able to give definite reasons why they were near the home. Their names are Luther Duncan, 21, and Mort Williams, 23. They claim they went to the house immediately following the shooting.

Both Romine and Gardner deny that they raped Mrs. Carter, but they are unable to give any reason for being on her premises or in the home.

"Romine wouldn't talk and all Gardner had to say was that he was standing in the door of the house when he was shot and that Romine was shot first. They wouldn't give any reason for the shooting," Curt Brumley, county deputy investigating the affair, said.

Officers stated that the boys had been drinking.

The two wounded youths were given emergency treatment by Dr. Sing at Kellyville.

Assisting Brumley in investigating the shooting was Jack Shipps, deputy night jailer.

Added to the raped woman's misfortune is the fact that a white lawyer employed by her has taken a mortgage on her farm stock and outdoor implements. If the poor woman is freed from jail, a once prosperous black woman will be penniless.

Matron Raped By White Pair

Two Hold Her. Jailed After Shooting Two Of 4 Attackers

SAPULPA, Okla.—(By Viola Drew Lewis for ANP) Mrs. Hallie Carter, 41, who lives alone on her 40 acre farm a few miles from here, was assaulted by two white youths while their companions held her a few weeks ago.

According to a story told Attorneys Amos T. Hall and Jesse O. Dedham, state counsel for the N.A.A.C.P., who called on Mrs. Carter at her cell, one white youth came to her home and she refused to admit him. Several days later two more came and again she refused entrance into her home. Still later, she said, four youths came and forced entrance, tore her clothes from her body and two of them held her while the other two raped her.

She further stated that she finally freed herself and reached under her bed, secured a .38 calibre revolver and opened fire upon them as they fled, wounding two of them, Pete Romine, 22, of Kellyville, and Mery Gardner, 19, living at Gypsy. Gardner is said to be in a critical condition. The attending physician told county officers that a punctured spine would probably cause him to be paralyzed from the hips down.

Mrs. Carter was jailed on charges of assault with intent to kill, while the white youths were not even arrested. The district attorney in a statement to Hall and Dedman said they were keeping Mrs. Carter in jail for "her safety", and that they would release her in a few days.

Mrs. Carter had employed a white lawyer who had taken mortgages on her farm and other holdings when N.A.A.C.P. counselors arrived.

Two White Youths Shot Following Rape of Negro Woman Near Kellyville

Black Dispatch

Officers Admit Drunken Condition of Wounded Boys Who Cannot Account for Presence in Woman's Home

2-24-39

White Attorney Takes Mortgage On Everything

Oklahoma City, Okla.

SAPULPA, Okla.—The rape of a Negro woman by white youths, resulting in the shooting of the two criminals was revealed here Monday when Mrs. Hallie Carter, 41, from her jail cell, told a pitiable story to attorneys employed by the state conference of branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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The two youths shot by Mrs. Carter are Pete Romine, age 22, of Kellyville, and Mery Gardner, age 19, living at Gypsy, south of Bristow.

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Assisting Brumley in investigating the shooting was Jack Shipps, deputy and night jailer.

Added to the raped women's misfortune is the fact that that a white lawyer employed by her has taken a mortgage on her farm stock and outdoor implements. If the poor woman is freed from jail, a once prosperous black woman will be penniless.

The Challenge to White Christianity

The great challenge to white Christianity in America rests in the attitude assumed towards Negro women. Down at Sapulpa at this moment a Negro woman languishes in jail. This poor helpless creature, victim of white immorality, recently shot two white boys whom she charges with raping her. In spite of the fact that all evidence points to the guilt of the white youths, the Negro woman who sought to protect her virtue is in jail while those whom she charges with brutally violating her person remain free.

To compound the distress of this poor woman, it should be said that before National Association for the Advancement of Colored People attorneys could reach her, a white attorney, in Sapulpa, was admitted to the jail, and he today is said to hold a mortgage on the distressed woman's farm stock and other effects. Draw a picture of such a shambles of justice in our so-called land of the free and the home of the brave. Draw another picture. Suppose these youths were black and the complaining witness white?

Black Dispatch

There is something wrong with the morality of any human being who winks at, and condones, customs and laws as will bring about such horirble situations. Responsibility for the approach white men make to Negro women in the night should be fixed by statutes we enact in daylight. Anti-marriage laws leave Negro women helpless here in America, and the Sapulpa horror fittingly typifies the menace hanging continually over every black woman's head.

2-4-39

An interesting discussion of "Southern Policy" on the anti-marriage laws between the races has appeared in the Christian Advocate, a white periodical, by Rolfe Lanier Hunt, of Louise, Miss., according to reprint in the National Baptist Voice.

Oklahoma City

Okla.

The substance of the discussion is that while laws forbid marriage between the races in the South, race mixing has gone forward in this section at a greater pace than in states which sanction intermarriage. So the writer concludes that since the principle of racial integrity is what the South seeks to protect, protection of that principle would be more certain, according to actual statistics, if marriage between white and colored were permitted by law.

Says Mr. Hunt: "To permit a man to father a child without responsibliity for his act of procreation makes for promiscuity and for miscegnation. To require the father to assist in support of his child and his mother makes for racial integrity. The marriage code of the southern states should, therefore, be revised to impose such responsibility. The granting of licenses for marriage between the races might result in some marirages between the races, but the amount of mixing of bloods would be vastly decreased."

At least an approach is suggested for justice between the races where rank prejudice has long ruled supreme.

In other words, if the white man really believes in racial integrity he will rid his legal codes of bans which do not permit the races to marry. We know all of the tommy rot that is presented whenever a Negro raises this question, but we make this charge here and now: Anti-marriage laws are devised to permit white men to approach Negro women, without responsibility, and not to protect white women.

We shed crocodile tears about the Jews in Germany, but the Sapulpa distress of a black woman causes the Black Dispatch to arise and ask: "Do Jewish women anguish in German jails because of having defended themselves against the fiendish and savage sensuality of Germans?"

Says "Most Atrocious Crime"

"The story told in your paper," regarding Hattie Carter Creek county Negro woman, held in jail at Sapulpa, "is the same as was told to me by my client," said Fred Patrick, attorney, Sapulpa, in a letter written to the Black Dispatch under date of February 8.

"I feel as you do that it is the most atrocious crime ever committed in Creek County. I believe her story throughout and I feel that she is innocent of any charges preferred against her. That she has a right to protect her home from all hazards and did protect it, not only to my satisfaction but to the satisfaction of the majority of the people of Creek County, both white and colored."

Black Dispatch

2-11-39

Mrs. Carter has been held in jail since January 8, when she dangerously wounded Pete Romine, 22 and Mery Gardner, 19. Officers found these white youths shot in the home of the Negro woman, and they have not yet been able to give satisfactory excuse for being there.

Okla. City

It appears that on the night of January 8, four white boys in a drunken condition went to the rural home of the Carter woman, and finding her alone, tore her clothes from her person and while two of the boys held her, the others committed the alleged crime.

As the boys left the home Mrs. Carter says she ran to her bed securing a .38 calibre Colt's revolver, wounding two of them.

The two youths shot by Mrs. Carter are Pete Romine, age 22, of Kellyville, and Mery Gardner, age 19, living at Gypsy, south of Bristow.

The particular cause for Attorney Patrick writing to the Black Dispatch developed out of a report of the affair made by the Black Dispatch correspondent at Sapulpa stating that "a white lawyer employed by her has taken a mortgage on her farm stock and outdoor implements. If the poor woman is freed from jail, a once prosperous black woman will be penniless."

In this connection Attorney Patrick has this to say:

"When Hattie Carter was confined in jail for this crime, several of the colored citizens and school teachers came to me and asked that I defend her which I agreed to do. At that particular time they were threatening to destroy her property, and in order to protect Hattie and myself I went to the County jail and took a mortgage on all of the suff she had for our protection against thieves and crooks who might destroy the same. You state in your article that I took a mortgage on her farm. In this connection let me say that Hattie Carter never owned a foot of land in her life. That she lived in a little one room 12x12 shack on a farm not hers. She has a little pony worth about $30.00. A team of mules, about 600 lbs., more than 20 years old, worth perhaps about $20.00. She has some plow tools and an old wagon probably worth all told about $40.00. My services as an attorney in a case of this kind ranges from $100.00 to $200.00. I charged her $100.00 and took a mortgage on this property, which the colored people of Creek County tell me is more reasonable than any other attorney in this County."

Shoots Boys Who Attacked Her; Jailed

Courier

2-11-39

Pittsburgh

Pa.

SAPULPA, Okla., Feb. 9—(ANP)—Mrs. Hallie Carter, 41, living alone on a [illegible]-acre farm near here, is in jail for shooting two of four white youths who raped her. Mrs. Carter stated that after she had refused entrance to first one and then two of the white youths twice, four of them came and forced their way into her home.

They tore the clothes from her body and two raped her as others held her. When she freed herself, she reached under the bed, grabbed a revolver and opened fire as they fled. Two of the youths, Pete Romine, 22, of Kellyville and Mery Gardner, 19, Gysy, were wounded.

Their companions notified police who arrested Mrs. Carter and charged her with assault with intent to kill when the boys denied they had raped her. They were not arrested.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

PENNSYLVANIA

6276

White Man Held For Rape On Girl

Tribune

11-18-39

Phila Pa

William Kehler (white) 944 Pen street, said to be past 40 years of age, is held without bail in the Camden County jail on a charge of rape allegedly committed on Hilda Chandler, 12-year-old colored girl of 101 Penn street.

According to records in the City detective bureau, a complaint against Kehler, signed by Mrs. Edna Moseley of Morrisville, aunt of the child charges that on more than one occasion the child says she was attacked by the man in the hallway of the Kehler address.

Mrs. Bertha Games, mother of Hilda, in an interview with the TRIBUNE, relates a sordid story that involves not only Kehler, but also her husband, Leroy Games, who is also under arrest on a similar charge of rape upon the child, his stepdaughter. Mrs. Games story is as follows: "On last Tuesday, election day Hilda was out in the back playing and when I called her for breakfast she could not be found. Later, my sister reported the child was seen by her getting out of a car in Morrisville and she naturally took charge of her, asking what she was doing out in Morrisville. The man who was driving the car was forced to stop because of a flat tire. She took his car number and reported it to the Pennsauken police. Hilda told that he had taken her for a ride, and previously had attacked her, promising her fifty cents. She also told the police her stepfather, my present husband, had done the same thing repeatedly. She stood in fear of Leroy, and that is why I believe she never told me anything about what has been happening."

Mrs. Games, who is expecting to give birth to a third child at any moment by her second husband seemed bewildered as she related the story, and said there is no doubt whatever in her mind that her husband is guilty of the offense charged by her daughter, also Kehler, who she claims has made some damaging admissions.

The Games family moved to this city seven or eight months ago from Morrisville, where Mrs. Games had previously lived with her first husband, James Chandler, who died seven years ago. She married Games six years ago and two children, Joseph and John, four and three years of age, respectively, have been born to the union. A son, James Chandler, 19, lives at the residence, and related a story of cruelty on the part of the stepfather to all of the children, particularly Hilda, to the Tribune. Arnold, 15, another son, is in Jamesburg State Home for Incorrigible Boys, because of the stepfather's cruelty, according to James, Jr., and his mother.

Hilda is being cared for at the Camden County Detention Home until the cases of both Kehler and her stepfather are heard. Games is an employee of the Campbell Soup Co., where he has worked for 13 years, according to Mrs. Games. The family is being taken care of temporarily by the Camden Relief Bureau, pending disposition of the case, when they may be returned to Morrisville where the mother and father and several other relatives of Mrs. Games live, and where they have legal status.

Kehler is said to have admitted taking the girl for a ride in his car, but according to Mrs. Games, insists that "Nothing happened to her." According to Mrs. Games he admitted putting his arm around the child in the car, "as any man would fondle a little child."

All eyes are on the case, to see just what disposition will be made of it. The feeling is intense in North Camden against Kehler. This is not the first case of a white man being charged with undue attention to young colored girls in the community, and the little publicity given to the arrest and charge has created a spirit of unrest on the part of the Negro citizenry of this section and the city at large.

6277

RACE MAN IS HERO IN DIXIE

Courier

Truck Driver Saves 15-Year-old White Girl from White Moron and Later Identifies Him.

11-11-39

Pittsburgh

CHESTER, S. C., Nov. 9—John Thomas, local truck driver, is credited by Constable S. L. Robinson, with saving a 15-year-old white girl from criminal assault Tuesday night by Vinson LaGuardia, white, said to claim Youngstown, O., as his home.

Seizing the girl as she walked along a poorly lighted street after she had been to a neighborhood store on an errand for her parents, LaGuardia is said to be have dragged her some distance into a vacant lot, striking her several times in the face with his fist.

Her cries attracted the attention of Thomas, on his way home from work, and he hurried to her aid. Forcing the attacker to release his alleged intended victim, Thomas after striking him several times with both fists, grappled with him for a few minutes before he broke away and fled.

LaGuardia was located some time later where he had hidden unnoticed in a concession booth at the Chester County Fair, and placed under arrest by the Constable. Taken to jail he was identiefid both by Thomas and the girl as her assailant.

Public indignation against LaGuardia became so inflamed when news of the attempted assault got abroad, that as a precautionary measure he was transferred to a jail in a neighboring county where he is being held without bond pending a preliminary hearing.

White! 15 Years; Colored - - - ? ?

Courier

11-25-39

Pittsburgh Pa

DARLINGTON, S.C., Nov. 22—Pleading guilty to a charge of criminally assaulting a ten-year-old white girl, William Evans, white man, 55, was sentenced here Tuesday in the Court of General Sessions, to serve a penitentiary term of fifteen years.

Officers charged the crime was committed when Evans, calling at the home of her parents in a rural community near Palmetto, found the child in the house alone and unprotected. Her condition was critical for weeks following the attack, but she eventually recovered and was able to identify her assailant.

6277

LYNCHINGS_ 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

VIRGINIA

6278

School Girl Charges Man With Assault

White Virginia Is Released On Bail of $300

Special to Journal and Guide

WARSAW, Va.—A youthful school girl, Mary Grey of this town was the victim of a brutal criminal assault recently but the white man arrested in connection with the crime was given his liberty on bond of only $300 to await trial on February 15.

The suspect is a white man by the name of Tallen. The girl related that while enroute home from school she was stopped by a man and offered a ride home in his automobile.

Since she knew the man, she says, she got into his car. When her home was reached, however, the man did not stop but kept on down the road. After she was assaulted she was thrown out of the automobile.

Found on the roadside, she was taken to her parents' home and later to St. Phillip's Hospital in Richmond.

According to hospital records, the girl was admitted for observation and examination on January 22, and discharged on January 26. Hospital attachess, however, refused to divulge the findings of the attending physician, or condition of patient when brought in.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
RAPE BY WHITES

TEXAS

6279

6279

GIRLS SAY POLICE ABDUCTED THEM, ATTEMPTED RAPE

By Staff Correspondent

DALLAS, Texas, April 6.—Four girls were abducted from a Mill City cafe by two alleged police officers a few days ago, taken to a deserted spot on the outer edge of town and threatened with certain atrocities according to a story told by one of the alleged victims to a Courier staff correspondent.

According to a story related by Charzell Finney, one of the alleged victims, the abduction occurred on the evening of Marh 22 as she sat with Versa Lee Anderson, Tommie Lee Thompson and Elnora Pierson in an eat shop operated by Mrs. Carrie Hubbard when two men, alleged to be police officers J. D. Ferguson and Green of squad car 47, entered the place and ordered their arrest on a "vagrancy" charge.

According to the girl's story, the men drove to the end of Skillerton street which ends at a railroad junction. Ferguson got out of the car and ordered Elnora Pierson out also, threatening her with a jail sentence if she did not agree to have an "affair" with him.

Elnora, Charzell stated, told the "officer" that she preferred to "go to jail." The women were then taken within a block of the place where they were picked up, and two of them, Versa Lee and Tommie Lee ordered out of the car.

"They drove to Wah Hoo Lake Park where they stopped the car in a dark spot behind the park laboratory," the girl said "and again attempted to make us submit to their desires." Failing in their second attempt to attack the women, the "officers" then drove them home.

The next morning, Charzell said, the four victims, accompanied by Ennis Miles and Mrs. Carrie Hubbard, reported the incident to police headquarters to Chief Bob Jones and others of the department, who assured them of immediate invstigation into the matter.

Investigation by a Courier correspondent revealed that the alleged officers could not be located for their side of the story.

Miss Finney is also said to have told her story to A. Maceo Smith, secretary of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

Several men who were said to have been in the cafe at the time of the alleged attack, could not be located for statements.

Courier

4-8-39

Pittsburgh Pa

LYNCHINGS - 1939 JAN. - JUNE
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

6281

Cullman, Ala., Tribune
July 6, 1939

Lynchings Increase In Southern States In '39

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, stated recently, "The records compiled at Tuskegee in the Department of Records and Research show that there were 4 lnychings in the first six months of 1939."

This is 3 more than the number for the first six months of 1938, and the same number for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Carrollton, Ga., Times
July 13, 1939

Lynching Record In South Moves Upward

According to F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939, in the southern states.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938 and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1 and Mississippi, 1.

McKenzie, Tenn. Banner
July 7, 1939

LYCHINGS GAIN OVER RECORDS OF LAST YEAR

According to a report from the Tuskegee Institute, where complete records of lynehings in the United States are compiled and kept for reference, there have been four lynchings in the country to date during this year. This record compares with only one for the first six months of 1938, and is the same as the first six months of 1937.

According to the report two of the lynchings took place in Florida and one each in Georgia and Mississippi.

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ree, S. C. Record
July 6, 1939

4 Lynchings in First 6 Months

According to the records compiled at the Tuskegee institute in the department of records and research, there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number, 4, for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Lake City, S. C., News
July 6, 1939

4 Lynchings in First 6 Months

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This is three more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number, 4, for the first six months of 1937.

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Clayton, Ala., Record
July 7, 1939

Four Lynchings First Six Months of 1939

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According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were four lynchings in the first six monhts of 1939.

This is three more than the number for the first six months of 1938, and the same number, lynchings in the first six months 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows, Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Deland, Fla. Democrat
July 7, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN U. S. DURING FIRST HALF 1939

According to the Tuskegee Institute, where records of crime have been compiled for a number of years, there were four lynchings in this country in the first half of 1939. Two of these were in Florida, while one each occurred in Mississippi and Georgia. The 1938 record for the same period was only one crime of that character.

Evergreen, Ala., Courant
July 6, 1939

Four Lynchings Recorded During First Half 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN.- JUNE

6283

Increase in Lynchings Reported By Tuskegee

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 2—(AP)—There were four lynchings, all of them in the South, in the first six months of 1939, Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research announced today. 7-8-39

The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937.

Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia 1, and Mississippi

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THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1939

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939. 7-6-39

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON, Pres.
Tuskegee Institute

Four Lynchings In First Six Months Of 1939

7-4-39

There were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939, three more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938 and the same number for the first six months of 1937, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research revealed through President F. D. Patterson, Monday.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2, Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

FOUR LYNCH CASES PINNED ON SOUTH

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3—(AP)—There were four lynchings, all of them in the South, in the first six months of 1939, Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research had announced Monday. 7-4-39

The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937.

Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida, two; Georgia, one, and Mississippi, one.

Four Lynched In U. S. So Far This Year

There have been three more lynchings during the first six months of 1939 than were reported during the same period of 1938, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of Records and Research, it was revealed this week in a release from President F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee. 7-9-39

There have been four lynchings in the first six months of 1939 as compared to one over the same period in 1938. There were also four lynchings during the first six months of 1937, President Patterson announced. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Four Lynched in First Half of Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(ANP)—There were four lynchings in the first six months of this year ending June 30, according to records compiled at Tuskegee by the department of records and research and made public Monday by Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president. 7-8-39

This is three more than the number one for the first half of 1938 and the same number as for the first six months in 1937. Two of the 1939 lynchings occurred in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

FOUR LYNCHED DURING FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Call
7-7-39

Florida Leads List With Two; Mississippi and Georgia, One Each

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE.—Four persons were lynched during the first six months of 1939, according to the records compiled in Tuskegee's department of records and research.

This year's toll of mob victims is an increase of three over the number lynched during the first half of 1938 when only one lynching was reported. In 1937, four were lynched in the first six months.

Florida leads the 1939 lynch list with two deaths by mob violence. One person each was lynched in Georgia and Mississippi.

Winnsboro [illegible] News & Herald
July 6. 1939

ynching Record For The First Six Months, 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
July 6, 1939

Lynching Record For The First Six Months Of 1939

Lynchings for the first six months of this year, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938 and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi 1.

Atmore, Ala., Advance
July 6, 1939

Lynchings Show Increase This Year

According to records compiled at the Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, there were four lynchings during the first six months of 1939. This is three more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Crossville, Tenn. Chronicle
July 13, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; adn Mississippi, 1.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
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Statesville, N. C. Daily
July 3, 1939

Four Lynchings Are Reported In First Six Months of 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research there were four lynchings inthe first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Sanford, Fla. Herald
July 5, 1939

Although there were only four lynchings in the South during the first six months of this year, there were two lynchings in Florida alone. This is a good record for the South, a bad one for Florida. This is a state which is proud of most of the records it has broken, but it is not proud of this one.

Titusville, Fla., Star Advocate
July 4, 1939

Four Lynchings In First Half Of 1939

According to the Tuskegee Institute, where records of crime have been compiled for a number of years, there were four lynchings in this country in the first half of 1939. Two of these were in Florida, while one each occured in Mississippi and Georgia. The 1938 record for the same period was only one crime of that character.

Oneida, Tenn., News
July 7, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD IN FIRST HALF OF 1939

Number Increased Over That Of Same Period 1938.

The following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year has been compiled by Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, showing that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia 1; and Mississippi

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Spartanburg S C Herald
July 3, 1939

Lynchings in 1939

The first six months of 1939 show an increase in the number of lynchings compared with a similar period in 1938. This year, according to a report released by the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, four persons have been lynched. This is three more than the number in the first half of 1938. Florida is charged with two of these crimes while Georgia and Mississippi each are charged with one.

The record of 1939 is far better than that of many previous years, but it is discouraging to know that it is worse than that of the first half of 1938. Lawabiding people of the South are doing their best to stop lynchings. They have made great progress and will not be content until at the end of a year it can be said that not one person in all the South has been lynched.

Mobile, Ala. Times
July 3, 1939

NONE IN ALABAMA

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(INS)—Tuskegee institute's department of records and research announced today that for the first six months of 1939 there were four lynchings, all in the south, compared with only one for the same period of 1938. There were four for the first six months in 1937.

The report listed two of the lynchings in Florida, and one in Georgia and Mississippi.

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 3, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS SO FAR

Figures For First Six Months Of 1939 Compare With One In '38

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — (AP) — There were four lynchings, all of them in the South, in the first six months of 1939, Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research announced today.

The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937.

Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida, two; Georgia, one, and Mississippi, one.

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
July 6, 1939

Four Lynchings First Six Months Of 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 3, 1939

Increase In Lynchings Reported By Tuskegee

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 2—(AP)—There were four lynchings, all of them in the South, in the first six months of 1939, Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research announced today.

The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937.

Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia 1, and Mississippi 1.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
July 3, 1939

Lynchings Show Increase Of Three

A report from Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research today revealed there were three more lynchings in the United States for the first six months of 1939 than for the corresponding period in 1938.

According to the report four lynchings occurred in the first six months of this year which was the same number for the first six months of 1937.

Two of the lynchings this year occurred in Florida; one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

Florala, Ala., News
July 6, 1939

Lynching Record For First Six Months

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, two; Georgia, one; and Mississippi, one.

Yours very truly,
F. D. Patterson, pres.

Douglas, Ga., Progress
July 6, 1939

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1939

Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number of each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
July 3, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD

Records compiled by Tuskegee Institute show there were four lynchings in the first four months of 1939. This was three more than for the same period in 1938 and the same number for the first six months of 1939. The states in which the lynchings occurred were Florida, two; Georgia, one; and Mississippi, one.

Ft. Payne, Ala., Journal
July 5, 1939

The Lynching Record For The First Six Months 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department for Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi 1.

F. D. Patterson, President.

Lumpkin, Ga., Stewart-Webster Jnl.
July 6, 1939

1938 Lynching Record Marred By 1939 Report

There were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939 in the United States according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Alabama.

Compared with 1938, this tabulation shows three more lynchings over the same period. while a comparison with the 1937 record shows an equal number, that of four.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Centreville, Ala., Press
July 6, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1939

According to F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Darlington, S. C. News & Press
July 6, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIST SIX MONTHS 1939

According to F. D. Patterson, president Tuskegee Institute, records show at Tuskegee that there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1, and Mississippi 1.

Pensacola, Fla. News
July 3, 1939

Four Lynchings Recorded in Dixie

4

TUSKEGEE, July 3.—(AP)—There were four lynchings, all of them in the South, in the first six months of 1939, Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research announced today.

The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937.

Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Herald
July 7, 1939

Four Lynchings Reported First Six Months of 1939

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of archives and research, there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number, one, for the first six months of 1938, and the same as the number for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 2, Georgia 1 and Mississippi 1.

LYNCHING RECORD

Bystander 7-13-39

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute reports a total of four lynchings in the first six months of 1939 in the U. S.

Des Moines, Iowa

This is three more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1988, and the same number four, for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2, Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 1.

Ashland, Ala. Progress
July 20, 1939

Lynching Record For The First Six Months Compiled At Tuskegee

The Progress has just received from F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, the following letter, concerning lynchings since January 1st.

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

"This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia 1, and Mississippi, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President."

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Arcadia, Fla.
Arcadian

JUL 6 1939

FLORIDA HAS AN UNENVIABLE RECORD FOR 1939 LYNCHINGS

President F. D. Patter~~son of~~ Tuskegee Institute, famous colored ~~school in Alabama~~, supplies information in regard to the lynchings in the United States for the first half of 1939. Florida was the scene of two of the total of four such crimes, Georgia and Mississippi each reporting one. But one lynching occurred in the U. S. in the first half of 1939, but in the first six months of 1937 the record was the same as for this year.

CHATTANOOGA TENN NEWS
JUL 3, 1939 J15

Lynchings Gain This Year

Lynchings are running high in number this year, according to statistics gathered by the Tuskegee Institute and released by it today.

Four were recorded for the first half of the year, as against one for the similar period last year. There also were four, however, during the first six months of 1937.

States in which lynchings occurred this year and the number in each are: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 1.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. POST
JUL 4, 1939 J15

FOUR LYNCHINGS ARE REPORTED THIS YEAR

TUSKEGEE, July 4.—(Special.)—Although the Alabama record was spotless, there were four lynchings in other Southern States during the first six months of 1939, compared with only one for the corresponding period last year, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

States in which lynchings have occurred and the number in each; Florida, two; Georgia, one, and Mississippi, one.

Dr. Patterson said four persons met death at the hands of mobs during the first six months of 1937.

ANDERSON S C MAIL

JUL 7 1939

A report of Southern lynchings for the first six months of 1939 shows two for Florida and one each for Georgia and Mississippi. The report, released by Tuskagee institute, states that the number is three more than for the same period last year, but the same as the 1937 record. 11

MOBILE. ALA. TIMES
JUL 3, 1939 J14

NONE IN ALABAMA

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(INS)—Tuskegee institute's department of records and research announced today that for the first six months of 1939 there were four lynchings, all in the south, compared with only one for the same period of 1938. There were four for the first six months in 1937.

The report listed two of the lynchings in Florida, and one in Georgia and Mississippi.

Everglades, Fla. News

JUL 6 1939

FLORIDA LEADS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2—(AP)—There were four lynchings, all of them in the South, in the first six months of 1939, Tuskegee institute's department ~~of records and~~ research announced today. The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937. Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida 2, Georgia 1, and Mississippi 1.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA. TIMES
JUL 6, 1939 J15

1939 Lynchings

The president of Tuskegee Institute, on January 1 and July 1 of each year, releases a statement of lynchings for the six months preceding those dates.

The most recent release reports there were four lynchings in the past half year. Two were in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in Mississippi.

Alabama, Tennessee and the other Southern states had a clean record.

The record is not so good as in the corresponding first six months of 1938, when there was only one lynching, but ties the first half year of 1937.

Elimination of lynchings, whether of whites or of blacks, is going to be a long drawn out process. The curve will swing up and down, but, it is reasonable to hope, gradually downward.

The important thing is that there shall be constant war on this brutal practice; that all the forces of education and the agencies for molding public sentiment shall be focused upon this problem.

No state or federal law can ever do what they can.

Covington, Tenn. Leader
July 6, 1939

TUSKEGEE FINDS MORE LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

There were four lynchings in the United States during the first six months of this year, according to a report issued this week by the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama negro school.

Only one lynching was reported during the first six months of 1938 while the same number, four, was reported for a like period in 1937. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as fololws: Florida 2, Georgia 1 and Mississippi 1.

Richland, Ga
Journal

JUL 6 1939

HARTFORD CONN TIMES

JUL 5 1939

GREENVILLE S C PIEDMONT

JUL 3 1939

Greenville, N.C. News
Leader

JUL 4 1939

PENSACOLA FLA NEWS

JUL 3 1939

MEXIA, TEX. NEWS
JUL 3, 1939 J12

COVINGTON, TENN. LEADER
JUL 6, 1939 J15

REIDSVILLE N C REVIEW

JUL 3 1939

ATLANTA GA CONSTITUTION

JUL 3 1939

FORT MEYERS FLA NEWS PRESS

JUL 3 1939

HENDERSON N C DISPATCH

JUL 3 1939

SAVANNAH GA PRESS

JUL 3 1939

HOUSTON, TEX., PRESS.
JUL 3, 1939 J13

ABBEVILLE, ALA. HERALD
JUL 6, 1939 J15

LOUISVILLE. KY., COURIER-JR.
JUL 4, 1939 J10

GUNTERSVILLE, ALA. ADV'RT'R
JUL 5, 1939 J15

PARIS, TENN. POST-INTELL.
JUL 3, 1939 J14

MOBILE, ALA. PRESS
JUL 3, 1939 J14

Memphis, Tenn., Press-Scimitar
JUL 3, 1939 J15

Columbia, Miss.Columbian-Progress
July 13, 1939

Lynching Record For First Six Months

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Hoschton, Ga., News
July 20, 1939

INCREASE IN LYNCHINGS IS SHOWN THIS YEAR

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than for the first six months of 1938 and the same number as for the first six monthse of 1937.

The states in which lynchings ocurred and the number in each state re as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Waynesboro, Miss. News
July 13, 1939

F. D. Patterson is a negro, and is president of Tuskegee Institute, one of the greatest colleges for negroes in the world. His bulletin, mailed every six months, gives the "lynching record" for the preceding six months, and shows only four for the period just ended: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi 1. The fight against mob violence has been carried on relentlessly in the South, until now a very small minority believe in taking the law in their hands to brutally kill.

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LYNCHINGS- 1939
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EDITORIALS

OIL CITY PA DERRICK
WEDNESDAY JULY 5 1939

FIGHTING LYNCH LAW

According to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute, in Alabama, there were fou lynchings in the first six months of 1939 a against only one for the same period las year and four for the first six months of 1937 Two of this year's lynchings were in Florida one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

Tuskegee, famous school founded by the late Booker T. Washington, has been keeping a record of lynchings for several years and giving the number widespread publicity in the hope of arousing public sentiment in the south and throughout the country against this criminal form of punishment.

The campaign is bearing good fruit. Lynch law is not only a blot on the escutcheon of the south but an indictment against the nation.

ILE. ALA. TIMES
6, 1939 J15

Lynch Law Not Needed

Alabama continues to keep her record clean.

In the first six months of this year, there were but four lynchings in the south, Tuskegee institute reports. Two were in Florida, one in Mississippi, one in Georgia. Alabama spotless! There has been no lynching in Alabama in a long while.

The co-operation citizens gave to peace officers in apprehending persons guilty of provacative offenses indicates that Alabamians are jealous of this good record.

Let this be called to the attention of those in congress who, for reasons of home politics, continually are hammering for a federal anti-lynch law. Such a law is more than unnecessary. Such a law only would provoke trouble.

SELMA, ALA. TIMES-JOURNAL
JUL 3, 1939 J14

LYNCHINGS, NORTH AND SOUTH

Statistics on lynchings in the South compiled by Tuskegee Institute for the first six months of this year call attention to the fact that Alabama still maintains her perfect record for a protracted period of relying upon the orderly processes of law to dispense justice in crimes of violence.

These statistics show that only four lynchings occurred in the South during the period covered, two in Florida and one each in Georgia and Mississippi.

To maintain the record of this state, Alabamians more than once gave full cooperation to peace officers in apprehending persons wanted for provocative offenses which might easily have resulted in violence without the exercise of restraint.

Yet those who advocate the passage of Federal anti-lynching legislation would consider only the records of states not yet able to completely restrain violence and submit the entire South to humiliation while exempting states of the North where gangsters impose, largely with impunity, lynch law under a different name.

PARKERSBURG W VA SENTINEL
MONDAY JULY 10 1939

LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

The Sentinel is in receipt of a letter from President F D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama giving the lynching record for the first six months of 1939. There were four lynchings in the half year against only one for the first six months of 1938. There were four in the first half of 1937.

* * *

The state in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are: Florida, two; Georgia, one; Mississippi, one. These figures show that lynching is much less common in the United States than it was several years ago. Through education and spreading of intelligent information lynching before many years in all probability will become a thing of the past.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
July 8, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD

From Tuskegee Institute, noted Southern negro school, comes information that for the first six months of 1939 the American lynching record stands at four. That is three more than for the same period of 1938, and the same number as for the first six months of 1937. The State of Florida contributed two out of these four lynchings so far this year. One lynching took place in Georgia and one in Mississippi. Florida's record, therefore, is twice as bad as that of any other State. It is something of which the State and all its citizens justly may be ashamed. Barbarity has no place among persons who consider themselves civilized.

MACON GA TELEGRAPH
JUL 10 1939

FACTS ON LYNCHING

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

You will be interested in certain facts which seem to be developing as a result of the decreasing number of lynchings during the past eighteen months. I haven't evidence enough to sustain my conclusions, but indications are that there is a disposition on the part of statistical agencies which give out the number of lynchings annually and semi-annually to include the violent death of a Negro at the hands of one white man as a lynching.

Even though the number of lynchings under this interpretation may remain fairly uniform with that of past years, nevertheless, we of the association do believe that the gradual elimination of mobs in this type of lynching denotes such progress in our educational program that our Southern courts supported by public opinion will, with increasing frequency, convict white men for the murder of a Negro.

Atlanta. JESSIE DANIEL AMES.

ROCKFORD ILL STAR
THURSDAY JULY 6 1939

CONSCIENCE AT WORK

Tuskegee institute's statistics on lynchings for the first six month of 1939 indicate some backsliding in the southern states from the record of 1938's first half year, with four lynchings written down this year against only one last year. In the first half of 1937, there were likewise four. Mississippi and Georgi reported one each in the last si months, Florida two. Florida threatens to take the sinister honor o leading in lynchings from Mississippi. This may be due to the peculiar clash of social stratums in Florida.

When the record is compared to other years, however, progress is apparent. The south is getting better law officers and the number of prisoners snatched from their guards is negligible. And the officer who has the sand to stand off a mob is no longer without honor in his own country.

A better public conscience is leavening even the back counties of the south and where twenty years ago there were 83 lynchings in a year this has been reduced to four in the half-year just closed. Some day the south will have written off the last blasphemy against justice.

FLORENCE S C NEW

JUL 3 1939

THAT — Tuskegee reports that there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939, three more than for the first six months of 1938. Causes were not stated. The states in which lynchings occurred were Florida 2, Georgia 1, and Mississippi. 1.

NORFOLK VA PILOT

JUL 6 1939

Lynchings in Three States

Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research has counted four lynchings in the first half of 1939. The number suggests that a slight rise is in prospect for the entire year. Since one lynching is one too many, the prospect is not pleasant; but lynching seems to be held down near the low figures of recent years, and since abhorrence of lynchings continues strong, and is increasing, the picture is not altogether dark.

Another aspect of the present report is enlightening. The States in which lynchings occurred this past half-year were Florida (2), Georgia and Mississippi. Mark these names. All three are in the 1938 record of lynchings, in the 1937 record, and in the 1936 record. (We have gone back no further but the result would be much the same if we had.) If one takes 1936, 1937, 1938 and the first half of 1939, the States in which lynchings occurred are found to be these:

Georgia, 8; Florida, 7; Mississippi, 7; Arkansas, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Louisiana, 1.

The lesson is unmistakable. Lynchings *may* occur in any Southern State, and, in fact, in nearly any State, although they are extremely rare outside the South. We almost had a lynching in Virginia a few weeks ago. We *may* have one next year. So may North Carolina, which has an excellent record. But in its strictly modern sense, lynching is chiefly a Georgia-Florida-Mississippi problem. They are the States where the missionary work needs to be done. They are the States where the sheriffs and their deputies need to learn their duty. They are the States where Governors need to drive at this infamous crime with some of the determination with which they seek votes. And they are the States where public opinion still has a great responsibility.

Leland. Miss. Enterprise
July 7, 1939

ANTI-LYNCH LAW ADVOCATES: ATTENTION—

The "lynching record" for the first six months of this year has just reached our desk from F D Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, and while it is not quite so gratifying as that made in 1938, it nevertheless demonstrates conclusively that lynching is defintely on the way out.

Prof Patterson reports that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which the lynchings occurred, according to Prof Patterson, were Florida; 2; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Fifty years ago lynchings frequently ran well over two hundred annually, but after a few years began to decrease and that decrease has been steady year by year.

The fight against mob violence in the south has been carried on relentlessly by law enforcement officials and the thinking people of the south against the small minority who believed in taking the law into their own hands when some particularly brutal crime would cause feeling to run high in a community.

The majority of lynching crimes occurred in rural sections, poorly policed and where roads and communication were poor and would occur so quickly that law enforcement agencies were unable to act in time to prevent such outrages.

But in all cases officials invariably did what could be done to prevent, and if failing as they sometimes did, they would try to determine who committed lynching crimes and to punish them. But if was always a difficult matter to determine just who composed the mob that did the lynching.

But the war against lynching grew in volume as time passed and the sentiment against lynching was so unanimous and so strong that lynching has become almost an eivl of the past. Like duelling, it will be entirely eliminated.

The southern states have spent millions of dollars in stamping out lynchings. Every year dozens of such crimes are prevented by prompt action of law officials and ways have been found to balk the collective action of the few who allow their feelings to run riot and would commit lynching crimes against society.

In the face of the record to overcome the lynching evil in the south, where the people have had to deal with the race question, no basis can be found to justify the vicious anti-lynching movement in congress, which for the moment has given away to other legislative matters which demand the full time of congress.—Vicksburg Evening Post.

PITTSBURG, KS. SUN
JUL 4, 1939 J17

Lynchers Scored.

In the first six months of 1939, lynchings in the United States were four times the number in the first six months of last year. Four persons were murdered by mobs. In the first half of 1938, there was only one lynching. The record is the same as that for 1937. Florida took first place as a lynching state, with two of the victims. Georgia and Mississippi had one each.

The report as made by Tuskegee Institute does not contain interesting facts concerning attempted lynchings during the period. There were a few instances, notably in Arkansas, where a brave and intelligent sheriff saved a Negro from mobs by outwitting the mobs. An officer who has courage and is smart is more than a match for the ordinary mob. A mob is by nature unthinking. Its leaders are not leaders because of their smartness but because they are noisy. Men of ability, judgment and balance do not lead mobs. They discourage mobs. Consequently, a mob always is at a disadvantage when it meets the opposition of a man who is both brave and smart.

GADSDEN ALA. TIMES
JUL 10, 1939 J19

DO WE NEED THAT LAW?

WE are indebted to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute for a few statistics involving lynchings in the South during the first six months of 1935. During this period, there were four lynchings in all—two in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

During that entire period there was not a single lynching in Alabama. Nor was there a single lynching in Alabama during 1938. In fact, if we are not mistaken, it has been something like two years or better since this state has seen a lynching. That, however, will not deter the boys who are advocating a federal anti-lynching law.

In imposing upon us this law, the federal government would invade an entirely new field of activity, using as its sole excuse the argument that the individual states are not capable of enforcing the law themselves. There has not been a single violation of the state anti-lynching law in two years in Alabama, and yet the boys up North insist that we need outside regulation! It doesn't take much insight to determine whether the advocates of the anti-lynching law are advocating it as a real law enforcement measure or as a method of currying political favor with the haters of the South in the metropolitan sections of this country.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN. - JUNE

6287

WATERBURY CONN REPUBLICAN

JUL 6 1939

DISMAL RECORD

Lynching Figures Exceed Those Of Last Year

To the Editor of The Republican:
I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee institute in the department of records and research that there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, two; Georgia, one; and Mississippi, one.

Yours very truly,
F. D. PATTERSON
President of the Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala., July 1, 1939.

Birmingham, Ala., Labor Advocate
July 8, 1939

Lynching Record For 1st 6 Months, 1939

July 1, 1939.

Editor Labor Advocate
Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six month of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

FAIRHOPE, ALA. COURIER
JUL 6, 1939 J15

CLANTON, ALA., UNION-BANNER
JUL 6, 1939. J15

LA GRANGE TEX., JOURNAL
JUL 6, 1939 J12

EUFAULA ALA. TRIBUNE
JUL 3, 1939 J15

Rosedale, Miss. Democrat
July 6, 1939

Leland, Miss. Enterprise
July 7, 1939

SPRINGFIELD MASS UNION
JUL 7 1939

NEW YORK N Y EVE POST
JUL 6 1939

GASTONIA N C GAZETTE
JUL 3 1939

BARRE VT TIMES
JUL 7 1939

Lumberton, N C Robesonian
JUL 5 1939

Tuskegee Institute Issues Report

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Aiken, S C Review
JUL 5 1939

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS 1939

Tuskegee, Ala.—According to records compiled at Tuskegee institute in the department of records and research, there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than for the first six months of 1938, and the same number for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 1.

OZARK, ALA, STAR
JUL 6, 1939 J15

QUINCY ILL RECORD
THURSDAY JULY 6 1939 WEEKLY

FAYETTEVILLE, TENN, NEWS
JUL 6, 1939 J15

SAN ANTONIO TEX NEWS
JUL 3, 1939

ATMORE ALA ADVANCE
JUL 6, 1939 J15

Pontotoc, Miss. Progress
July 6, 1939

NEW YORK N Y TIMES
JUL 4 1939

Barnwell, S.C. People-Sentinel
JUL 6 193

Kissimmee, Fla Gazette
JUL 6 1939

HENDERSONVILLE N C TIMES NEWS
JUL 3 1939

NEW BERN N C SUN JOURNAL
JUL 4 1939

Tifton, Ga Gazette
JUL 3 1939

SUMTER S C ITEM
JUL 3 1939

WOLFE CITY, TEX. SUN
JUL 14, 1939 J19

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than during the first six months of 1938, and the same number in the first six months of 1937. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

CYNTHIANA, KY., DEMOCRAT
JUL 6, 1939 J19

4 LYNCHINGS REPORTED FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS

Four lynchings for the first six months of this year were reported in a release made this week by the Tuskegee Institute. This, the report says, is three more than the one lynching for the first six months in 1938 and is the same number reported for the same period in 1937. States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are Florida 2, Georgia 1, and Mississippi 1.

Greer, S.C. Citizen

JUL 13 1939

TUSKEGEE REPORTS

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Blountstown, Fla
Record

JUL. 14 1939

Florida Leads In Lynchings

According to statistics prepared by F D Patterson, president of Tuskeegee Institute, Florida holds an unenviable position in the lynching record for the first six months of 1939.

This state has been the scene for two of the four lynchings of the year. Georgia and Mississippi had one each.

The total of four is three more than for the first six months of 1938 when only one lynching occurred and equals the number for the same veriod in 1937.

DANVILLE KY., MESSENGER
JUL 5, 1939 J17

BREVITIES
NEWS
Local :: State :: National
COMMENTS

LYNCHINGS increased during the first six months of 1939 over 1938, it is reported by Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., the records showing that there were four lynchings, three more than in 1938, and the same number for the first six months of 1937. The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

HUGO, OK. NEWS
JUL 5, 1939 J18

Lynchings Icrease In United States

Four men have been lynched during the first six months of 1939 according to a report released today by the Tuskegee Institute.

This is three more than the number for the first six months of 1938 and the same number for the first six months of 1937.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 1.

6288

LYNCHINGS- 1939
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN.- JUNE

(EDITORIALS)

Rome Ga News-Tribune
July 12, 1939

INCREASE IN MOB VIOLENCE

DURING the first six months of 1938 there was only one lynching in the South while in the first six months of the present year there were four, according to a report issued by the Tuskegee Institute.

In the first half of this year there were two lynchings in Florida and one each in Georgia and Mississippi, and these states should take whatever steps are necessary to put an end to such violations of the law.

An increase in such outbreaks is certain to lend encouragement to those who persistently seek to have passed a federal law giving jurisdiction in such matters to the general government, and this is one of numerous unfortunate phases to the ugly question.

Mob violence does much more than bring injury or death to one, two or three individuals. It constitutes a grave assault upon the law itself and tends to break down the safeguards that society has created for its protection.

When the law ceases to operate, life and property are without protection and thus chaos is introduced. The law is ever man's tower of defense and it is folly to do anything that tends to break it down.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
July 12, 1939

INCREASE IN MOB VIOLENCE

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Winston-Salem N. C. Journal
July 4, 1939

Lynching in the South

President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, reports that during the first six months of 1939, according to the records compiled at the institute, there were four lynchings in the South.

Of the total the tourist state of Florida contributed two, or one-half the total, while Georgia and Mississippi each reported one.

During the period North Carolina continued to maintain its no-lynching record, a fact that should occasion a certain measure of cautious pride. But the fact that for the region as a whole three more lynchings occurred during the first half of 1938 than occurred for the same period last year affords sharp reminder that the fight against this evil is by no means won—that it must go on unceasingly and be waged co-operatively with the utmost vigilance and intelligence.

The fact that North Carolina has not had a lynching for a number of years now should not create in the progressive and humane citizens of the State a feeling of complacency. The record shows that we have been tolerant and decent in dealing with interracial problems involving crime during the past few years. This record is a stern challenge to every North Carolinian. We must maintain it through the years, and thereby endeavor by our example as well as by precept to help eradicate the curse of mob violence from the Southern states and from the nation.

Roanoke, Va., World News
July 11, 1939

The Lynching Record

President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute reports four lynchings in the first six months of 1939, an increase of three over the same period of 1938. Two occurred in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

Tuskegee records are accepted as authoritative, for it has a rigid definition of lynching. Mere mob murders are not included unless there is an attack on the law itself, either to take a prisoner from legal officers, or to execute summary vengeance without due process of law.

In none of the four instances is there any record of members of the lynching mobs being brought into court to answer for their crime, nor is there any account of proceedings against jailers or constables who meekly surrendered prisoners entrusted to their keeping.

For political effect on the Negro vote of large northern cities, Congress has frequently debated, without action, a bill making lynching a Federal offense, although the interstate character of the crime seems difficult to establish. Such a law, it is held, would not diminish lynching, but would provide an outside, unbiased investigation of such disorders, and a more resolute prosecution of those taking part.

Lynchings will end when an aroused public opinion demands that they end, when it is realized that cowardly attacks on unarmed prisoners are in reality an attack on the law itself. As a matter of fact, lynching has already ended in those States and those localities where lynching mobs have been prosecuted and convicted.

Improving the Lynching Record

An impartial investigation conducted by Rev. J. O. J. Taylor, pastor of Grace Methodist Church in Savannah, at the request of Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, seems to establish the fact that the alleged "lynching," which was reported to have taken place at Woodcliffe in Screven county last March, was entirely mythical and to prove conclusively that the person allegedly "lynched" not only was not lynched, but is still alive and well. If there is anyone who claims to actually know and to have real proof that a lynching occurred, that person should come forward and "speak now or forever hold your peace."

Morning News

In conducting the purely fact-finding investigation, there has been no desire or effort to impugn the motives of the Tuskegee Institute or to blame it in the least for publishing what seemed to be an authentic and accurate report, apparently based upon information carried in a Savannah negro newspaper. President F. D Patterson of Tukegee bears an unquestioned reputation for integrity and nobody believes that he intentionally erred in announcing that four lynchings occurred in the South during the first six months of 1939, including one in Georgia, two in Florida, and one in Mississippi, as compared with one in the first half of the previous year. Confidence prevails that, if convinced by the facts recently gleaned concerning the alleged lynching in Georgia that there was no such occurrence in this state, he will gladly correct the report.

7-29-39

The Savannah Journal, which advocates the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill may have been well intentioned when it published the report of the alleged "lynching" in Screven county, although in the report from Woodcliffe it was admitted that "Getting accurate facts in detail was impossible under the circumstances." Sheriff Jack Griffin and other reputable citizens of Screven county say there is no truth in the report.

Savannah
Ga.

The progress attained in recent years in decreasing the number of lynchings strengthens the belief that there is no cause for federal intervention in Southern states to correct a situation, which these states are rapidly correcting through their own initiative. The association which Mrs Ames represents is continuing its valuable service to the South by carrying forward its program of education to prevent lynching and deserves the encouragement and support of all right-thinking citizens, regardless of race or color. The association constantly stresses the falseness of the claim that lynchings are necessary to the protection of Southern white women. Reports from Washington indicate that agitation in Congress for a federal anti-lynching law has been revived, although the opinion apparently prevails that attention should be focused upon the suppression of gangster killings and other mob violence in Northern cities rather than upon real or imaginary "lynchings" in the South.

GADSDEN ALA. TIMES
JUL 12, 1939 J19

NCREASE IN MOB VIOLENCE

DURING the first six months of 1938 there was only one lynching in the South while in the first six months of he present year there were four, according to a report issued by the Tuskegee Institute.

In the first half of this year there were two lynchings in Florida and one each in Georgia and Mississippi, and these states should take whatever steps are necessary to put an end to such violations of the law.

An increase in such outbreaks is certain to lend encouragement to those who persistently seek to have passed a federal aw giving jurisdiction in such matters to the general government, and this is one of numerous unfortunate phases to he ugly question.

Mob violence does much more than bring injury or death to one, two or three individuals. It constitutes a grave assault upon the law itself and tends to break down the safeguards that society has erected for its protection.

When the law ceases to operate, life and property are without protection and thus chaos is introduced. The law is ever man's tower of defense and it is folly to do anything that tends to break it down.

JOHNSON CITY, TENN. PRESS
JUL 12, 1939 J19

LYNCHING RECORD

Although a long-range view shows the abominable crime of lynching is gradually dying out in the United States, an increase in this type of offense was recorded during the first six months of 1939, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, recently notified *The Press.*

"I ~~find," Patterson said, "there~~ were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939. This is three more than the number, one, for the first six months of 1938, and the same number, four, for the first six months of 1937.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, two; Georgia, one, and Mississippi, one."

Any increase in lynching is a matter for national shame. But there is room for gratification when the 1939 record is compared with those for the '80's and '90's, when in some years several hundred persons—not all negroes, by any means—met death by mob violence.

ATHENS GA BANNER HERALD

JUL 14 1939

LYNCHINGS ARE ON THE DECREASE

The number of lynchings throughout the country showing a considerable decline in recent years is a sign of improved citizenship. For the first six months of 1939 there had been only four lynchings reported in the United States, says the statistical department of Tuskegee Institute, which institution conducts a department that keeps an absolute check on all such occurrences.

It may be, however, that the decline is due in a measure, to the decline in the number of unspeakable crimes which are usually responsible for lynchings. We are not informed as to the number of such crimes having been committed this year, but our understanding is that fewer than usual are on record.

Let us hope that our people are becoming more sane and law abiding and are frowning on mob violence and lynchings, but in our opinion the greatest contribution to the reduction of the number of lynchings is the ready action of the courts in trying criminals for such crimes. Bickering and delay in trials of those guilty of rape is bound to create dissension and resentment on the part of the public that leads people into taking the law into their own hands and lynching those who are guilty.

However, for the first six months of this year, the number of lynchings has shown a decline.

LYNCHINGS - 1939 JAN. - JUNE
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

Blackshear, Ga., Times
July 6, 1939

Georgia Has One Lynching This Year

Georgia has had one lynching this year according to the following six month report on lynchings recently released by F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939..

"This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Greenville, N. C.—Reflector
July 6, 1939

Four Lynched During First Half of year

Lynching records for the first six months of 1939, released by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, shows four such mob deaths during the period.

During the first six months of last year only one lynching was recorded, but the number in the first six months of 1937 also was four.

So far this year Florida has had two lynchings, Georgia, one, and Mississippi, one.

Savannah, Ga., News
July 4, 1939

Lynchings to Date Increase Over 1938

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number (1) for the first six months of 1938, and the same number (4) for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state

are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 1. The above information has been given out by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee.

Chester, S. C., Reporter
July 6, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, July 3.—According to the records compiled at Tuskagee Institute in the department of records and research there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number (1) for the first six months of 1938, and the same number (4) for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Lawrenceville, Ga., News-Herald
July 6, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1939

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President Tuskegee Institute.

St. Matthews, S. C., Times
July 6, 1939

The Lynching Record For The First Six Months, 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Hartsville, S. C. Messenger
July 6, 1939

TUSKEGEE REPORTS LYNCHING RECORD

Gives Out Information for First Six Months of This Year.

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Blakeley, Ga., News
July 6, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR

Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research reveal that there have been four lynchings in the first six months of 1939. This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number, four, for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Russellville, Ala., Times
July 6, 1939

Four Lynchings In Alabama First Six Months Of 1939

Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939 in Alabama.

This is three more than the one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida 2, Georgia 1, and Mississippi 1.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courie
July 4, 1939

Lynchings in 1939

To The News and Courier:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year: I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, that there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, two; Georgia, one; and Mississippi, one.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

LaFayette, Ga., Messenger
July 6, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS OF YEAR 1939

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskeegee announced today that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939. This is 3 more than the number for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Sandersville, Ga., Progress
July 6, 1939

Four Lynchings Within 6 Months

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, located at Tuskegee, Ala., who keeps a record of lynchings, furnishes the following details for publication:

I send you the following information concerining lynchings for the first six months of the year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Millen, Ga., News
July 6, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938 and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia 1,; and Mississippi, 1.

Nashville, Ga., Herald
July 6, 1939

Lynching Records Six Months of 1939

The following information concerns lynchings for the first six months of this year. It is found according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Elberton, Ga., Star
July 4, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1939

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number, 1, for the first six months of 1938, and the same number, 4, for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 1.

Athens, Tenn., Post Athenian
July 3, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS FIRST 6 MONTHS, TUSKEGEE REPORT

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, submits to the Post-Athenian the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Departments of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the firfist six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred anad the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi 1.

Everglade, Fla. News
July 6, 1939

FLORIDA LEADS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2—(AP)—There were four lynchings, all of them in the South, in the first six months of 1939, Tuskegee institute's department of records and research announced today. The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937. Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida 2, Georgia 1, and Mississippi 1.

Kissimmee, Fla., Gazette
July 6, 1939

Lynching Record For First 6 Months, 1939

Information by Tuskegee Institute, national negro college in Alabama, reports four lynchings during the first six months of 1939.

"This is three more than the number, one, for the first six months of 1938, but the same number for the first six months of 1937," says F. D. Patterson, president of the Institute, who adds:

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number, were: Florida 2, Georgia 1, Mississippi 1."

Dadeville, Ala., Record
July 6, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN U. S. FIRST SIX MONTHS 1939

Tuskegee Institute.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute, there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number for the first six months of 1938, and the same number for the first six months of 1937. Florida had two lynchings; Georgia one; and Mississippi one.

West Point, Ga. News
July 6, 1939

Four Lynched In U. S. During 6 Months, 1939

In his semi-annual report, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, issues the following statement concerning lynchings in the United States for the first six months of 1939:

"I find according to the records compiled at Tuskeegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

"This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1."

Batesburg, S. C., Twin-City News
July 5, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD LOW IN THE UNITED STATES

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchingss occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Arcadia, Fla., Arcadian
July 6, 1939

FLORIDA HAS AN UNENVIABLE RECORD FOR 1939 LYNCHINGS

President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, famous colored school in Alabama, supplies information in regard to the lynchings in the United States for the first half of 1939. Florida was the scene of two of the total of four such crimes, Georgia and Mississippi each reporting one. But one lynching occurred in the U. S. in the first half of 1939, but in the first six months of 1937 the record was the same as for this year.

Savannah, Ga., Press
July 10, 1939

SHEAR OPINION

THE TIFTON GAZETTE makes this pertinent observation:

The Tuskegee Institute reports four lynchings in Southern states during the first six months of 1939. It is no excuse for the lynchings, of course, but it does seem that the institute would take some recognition of the gangster slayings in other parts of the country.

Milton, Fla., Gazette
July 6, 1939

Florida Leads In Lynching Business

According to statistics just released by Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., there were four lynchings during the first six months of 1939, three more than for the first six months of 1938, and the same number as lynched the first half of 1937.

The states in which lynchings have occurred this year and the number in each state are: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1 and Mississippi, 1.

Savannah, Ga., News
July 5, 1939

Lynchings in 1939.

Spartanburg Herald: The first six months of 1939 show an increase in the number of lynchings compared with a similar period in 1938. This year, according to a report released by the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, four persons have been lynched. This is three more than the number in the first half of 1938. Florida is charged with two of these crimes while Georgia and Mississippi each are charged with one.

The record of 1939 is far better than that of many previous years, but it is discouraging to know that it is worse than that of the first half of 1938. Law-abiding people of the South are doing their best to stop lynchings. They have made great progress and will not be content until at the end of a year it can be said that not one person in all the South has been lynched.

Douglas, Ga., Progress
July 6, 1939

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1939

Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number of each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
July 3, 1939

Lynching Report Filed In School

Figures compiled and announced by Tuskegee Institute, in Tuskegee Alabama, show that for the first six months of 1939 there were four lynchings in the United States.

This compares with one lynching for the first six months of 1938. In the first six months of 1937 there were four such occurrences.

States in which lynchings occurred this year are: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Fernandina, Fla., Leader
July 7, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF YEAR

SAME NUMBER AS IN 1937

Every 6 months figures on lynchings are compiled and sent out by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute of Alabama. This school is for negroes and was founded by Booker T. Washington.

According to Tuskegee, the number of lynchings for the first six months of 1939 was 4, while during the same period of 1938 there were but three, but during the similar period of 1937 there were the same number as this year, 4. States in which lynchings occurred were Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

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Pensacola, Fla Journal
July 5, 1939

Florida Lynching Record

FLORIDA occupies an unenviable position in the lynching record for the first six months of 1939, according to statistics given out by Tuskeegee institute's president, F. D. Patterson.

This state has been the scene for two of the four lynchings of the year. Georgia had one and Mississippi one each.

The total of four for this peoriod is three more than for the first six months of 1938 when only one lynching occurred and is the same as for the first six months of 1937.

Lexington, S. C. Dispatch-News
July 6, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN SIX MONTHS

According to a statement sent out by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama negro school that keeps a lynching record of the entire country, ~~there~~ were only four lynchings in the country during the first six months of the year. All these were in Southern states. During the same time there were probably dozens of gang killings in the north.

When a person is lynched in the south, the man lynched 99 times out of a hundred, has committed some henious crimes against society. Gangster killings come about because the man killed is wanted out of the way by the gang.

Gang killings are lynchings into which society does not enter at all. Because they do not take place in the south and because they do not effect the negro they are not classed as lynchings by the negro school or the northern politicians.

Batesburg, S. C., Twin-City News
July 5, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN SIX MONTHS

According to a statement sent out by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama negro school that keeps a lynching record of the entire country, there were only four lynchings in the country during the first six months of the year. All these were in Southern states. During the same time there were probably dozens of gang killings in the north.

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Newberry, S. C. Observer
July 7, 1939

NOT SO GOOD

The South's record in lynchings for the first six months of 1939 is not so good. According to records compiled at the Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were four lynchings recorded for the first six months of this year as compared with one for the same period in 1938.

Complimentary to South Carolina is the fact that none of the four occurred within this state. Two were in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

Just when it seems that we have learned that mob violence is not justice, and that it is best to let the law take its course, another outbreak of lynchings takes place. However that is not a bad record as compared with some of the years in the immediate past. Perhaps some day mob violence will be ended. Uutil that day we can bend our efforts toward spreading the idea that it is not best to take the law into our own hands.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 5, 1939

Do We Need That Law?

WE are indebted to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute for a few statistics involving lynchings in the South during the first six months of 1935. During this period, there were four lynchings in all—two in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

During that entire period there was not a single lynching in Alabama. Nor was there a single lynching in Alabama during 1938. In fact, if we are not mistaken, it has been something like two years or better since this state has seen a lynching. That, however, will not deter the boys who are advocating a federal anti-lynching law.

In imposing upon us this law, the federal government would invade an entirely new field of activity, using as it sole excuse the argument that the individual states are not capable of enforcing the law themselves. There has not been a single violation of the state anti-lynching law in two years in Alabama, and yet the boys up North insist that we need outside regulation! It doesn't take much insight to determine whether the advocates of the anti-lynching law are advocating it as a real law enforcement measure or as a method of currying political favor with the haters of the South in the metropolitan sections of this country.

Mobile, Ala. Times
July 6, 1939

Lynch Law Not Needed

Alabama continues to keep her record clean.

In the first six months of this year, there were but four lynchings in the south, Tuskegee institute reports. Two were in Florida, one in Mississippi, one in Georgia. Alabama spotless! There has been no lynching in Alabama in a long while.

The co-operation citizens gave to peace officers in apprehending persons guilty of provacative offenses indicates that Alabamians are jealous of this good record.

Let this be called to the attention of those in congress who, for reasons of home politics, continually are hammering for a federal anti-lynch law. Such a law is more than unnecessary. Such a law only would provoke trouble.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
July 5, 1939

The Lynching Record

A report from President F. D. Patterson, of the Tuskegee institute, in Alabama, shows there were four lynchings in the south during the first six months of 1939. Of the total, Florida accounted for two, while Georgia and Mississippi each reported one.

There were three more lynchings during the first half of this year than occurred during the corresponding period last year; a fact presenting a striking reminder that King Lynch has not yet been vanquished.

The fact that no lynching has occurred in North Carolina this year, and that none has taken place in the state for several years, affords good reason for pride. Nevertheless, the battle for law and order, and for righteousness, should be continued with the utmost vigor, vigilance and intelligence.

Just now our state is affording a good example for the other states in the matter of eradicating the curse of mob violence and mob rule. May the day come soon when all the south will rid itself of lynchings and all other forms of mob violence!

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
July 6, 1939

Lynchings in Three States

Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research has counted four lynchings in the first half of 1939. The number suggests that a slight rise is in prospect for the entire year. Since one lynching is one too many, the prospect is not pleasant; but lynching seems to be held down near the low figures of recent years, and since abhorrence of lynchings continues strong, and is increasing, the picture is not altogether dark.

Another aspect of the present report is enlightening. The States in which lynchings occurred this past half-year were Florida (2), Georgia and Mississippi. Mark these names. All three are in the 1938 record of lynchings, in the 1937 record, and in the 1936 record. (We have gone back no further but the result would be much the same if we had.) If one takes 1936, 1937, 1938 and the first half of 1939, the States in which lynchings occurred are found to be these:

Georgia, 8; Florida, 7; Mississippi, 7; Arkansas, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Louisiana, 1.

The lesson is unmistakable. Lynchings *may* occur in any Southern State, and, in fact, in nearly any State, although they are extremely rare outside the South. We almost had a lynching in Virginia a few weeks ago. We *may* have one next year. So may North Carolina, which has an excellent record. But in its strictly modern sense, lynching is chiefly a Georgia-Florida-Mississippi problem. They are the States where the missionary work needs to be done. They are the States where the sheriffs and their deputies need to learn their duty. They are the States where Governors need to drive at this infamous crime with some of the determination with which they seek votes. And they are the States where public opinion still has a great responsibility.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
July 4, 1939

NOT PERFECT BUT STILL LOW.

The Nation's lynching record for the first six months of 1939 as compiled by the Tuskegee Institute shows four persons died during the six months at the hands of mobs.

This was three more than died by such means in the first six months of 1939 and was the same as for a similar period in 1937.

Two of the lynchings occurred in Florida, one in Georgia and the other in Mississippi.

The total does not include, of course, deaths from gangster-mobs in other States. Violence is just as rampant in other sections but "lynchings," according to all records, occur only in the South.

The total for the year shows we have not reached perfection but when we remember the total for a few years back we are persuaded to believe we are making progress.

The Lynch Record

THE lynching record for the first six months of this year is not one calculated to inspire hope in the breasts of civilized folks that the South is becoming a better place in which to live. According to the report released by Tuskegee Institute, four Negroes were done to death by southern mobs during the six months now past—three more than the number murdered by the howling mobs over the same period of last year. That record, no doubt, doesn't include all of the mob murders perpetrated in Dixie, but lists only those coming to the attention of the department of Records and Research of the Alabama institution. However, even the four are far too many—many more than has been reported as being mobbed in other civilized countries.

Mobbing Negroes in America has long since ceased to be a happening. It has gotten to be a pastime, so far as certain sections of the South are concerned. Southern law enforcement officers are quite often helpers in the barbaric mob murders, and very seldom do they exercise their authority toward preventing such crimes. The Negro victims of mobs and their kindred have no recourse for redress. In the South, the Negro is in a worse predicament, politically, than he was during the ante-bellum days. Being disfranchised, he cannot help choose law officers, and has no voice in the making of the laws of that section of the country. He is, therefore, hog-tied, and unless he is lucky enough to escape the wrath of the whites, if he is accused of a crime, he can only expect one end, to be lynched.

It is a sad commentary upon the democracy of this country—this lynching record of the first six months of 1939. It is shameful that we, as a nation, can express so much sympathy for other persecuted peoples across the ocean, yet burn and murder our own people in our own back yards. So far as we know, not a lyncher has yet been punished. Our state governments refuse to act against mob members, and our national government simply winks at the crimes committed against black citizens in the South. Nevertheless, we cannot help but ask again and again, "What is ever going to be done about lynching in America?" We do not know. Do you know? The blood of the four Negroes lynched during the first six months of this year, crying from the ground, makes the question even more pertinent!

7-16-39

7-16-39

Athens Ga. Banner Herald
July 14, 1939

LYNCHINGS ARE ON THE DECREASE

The number of lynchings throughout the country showing a considerable decline in recent years is a sign of improved citizenship. For the first six months of 1939 there had been only four lynchings reported in the United States, says the statistical department of Tuskegee Institute, which institution conducts a department that keeps an absolute check on all such occurrences.

It may be, however, that the decline is due in a measure, to the decline in the number of unspeakable crimes which are usually responsible for lynchings. We are not informed as to the number of such crimes having been committed this year, but our understanding is that fewer than usual are on record.

Let us hope that our people are becoming more sane and law abiding and are frowning on mob violence and lynchings, but in our opinion the greatest contribution to the reduction of the number of lynchings is the ready action of the courts in trying criminals for such crimes. Bickering and delay in trials of those guilty of rape is bound to create dissension and resentment on the part of the public that leads people into taking the law into their own hands and lynching those who are guilty.

However, for the first six months of this year, the number of lynchings has shown a decline.

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WILMINGTON N C STAR

JUL 4 1939

COMPARISONS IN JUSTICE

The lynching record for the first six months of 1939, according to statisticians of Tuskegee institute, shows four against the one recorded in 1938, and the same number for the first half-year of 1937.

Of the four, two were attributed to Florida and one each to Mississippi and Georgia.

Members of all races pride themselves on the paucity of lynchings in North Carolina, a state where it has been demonstrated time and time again that the courts accord fair treatment to every man.

In proof thereof we append an editorial from the *Cape Fear Journal*, local Negro newspaper, which deals with one of the Florida lynchings, and contrasts it with the treatment accorded the perpetrator of a similar incident in New Hanover county.

The editorial is captioned "Justice: Florida and New Hanover County Brands."

"Down in Florida some time back, a Negro driver accidentally killed a little white child.

"The Negro was taken into custody.

"He thought he would be placed in jail to await a fair and impartial trial by jury.

"But, relatives of the dead boy thought differently.

"They took the helpless Negro from the law—and they lynched him.

"That's justice Florida brand.

"Here in New Hanover County this week, a Negro truck driver killed, by accident, a child. The child was of the Nordic race. Add to that the fact that his father was a well-known and a well-liked Wilmington police officer.

"The Negro driver was arrested. He was placed under bond, pending an investigation by a coroner's jury.

"The all-white jury, ruling that the youngster came to his death entirely by accident, freed the Negro.

"No mob formed.

"The driver was not strung up to the limb of a tree, though there are many trees in Wilmington and New Hanover County.

"That's justice New Hanover County Brand and incidently the true American brand.

"The *Cape Fear Journal* prefers justice New Hanover County brand."

SALISBURY N C POST

JUL 5 1939

Four Lynchings

The semi-annual report on lynchings i the United States issued by Tuskegee Institute has come to hand revealing that ther have been four lynchings during the fir half of the year 1939.

The figure equals that of the first half o 1937, but represents an increase of thre over the first half of last year when onl one case of lynching was reported.

The current report allocates one lynchin each to Georgia and Mississippi and two t Florida.

So once again North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia may thank God that official vigilance has been sufficient and law-abiding potency enough to thwart the few cases of threatened mob violence which have developed in these regions.

These three of course will not begrudge the clean slate of public conduct attained by Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee; nevertheless the two Carolinas and Virginia are justified in the pride which they take in the admirable progress they have made in recent years against the lynching evil, and it seems to us they have passed another milestone in fortifying themselves in their resentment against proposed federal anti-lynching legislation.

It will be a happy day for the South as a whole when the laggard states of the deep South can so perfect their records of law enforcement as to have lynching statistics confined wholly to other sections of the country.

The responsible people of the South abhor lynchings as much as responsible people anywhere; but that has not made them any more willing to stomach the lies about the South and the abuse of our section which have come from some of the national mouthpieces representing other sections where gang-political rule and industrial terrorism have engendered lethal outrages worse by far than Southern lynchings in Dixie's darkest days.

ANDERSON S C MAIL

JUL 11 1939

LYNCHINGS DECLINE AS CIVILIZATION ADVANCES

According to Tuskegee institute, which keeps competent check on such matters, there were only four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of the present year, but to our way of thinking that was four too many. Happily there was none in South Carolina.

Better jails and automobiles and a more intelligent type of law enforcement officer gradually are pushing lynchings into the limbo of things which used to be.

The citizen who comes to expect from example that the courts will punish adequately any heinous crime is not a citizen to go a-lynching in the cause of justice.

Similarly another type of citizen is restrained from lynching by the knowledge that the jail is so strong that the national guard can get there over good roads before he and brother lynchers can get the prisoner out of his cell.

There is still another type who is discouraged because he is a coward and the deputy might shoot.

PENSACOLA FLA JOURNAL

JUL 5 1939

Florida Lynching Record

FLORIDA occupies an unenviable position in the lynching record for the first six months of 1939, according to statistics given out by Tuskeegee institute's president, F. D. Patterson.

This state has been the scene for two of the four lynchings of the year. Georgia had one and Mississippi one each.

The total of four for this peoriod is three more than for the first six months of 1938 when only one lynching occurred and is the same as for the first six months of 1937

CHARLOTTE N C NEWS

JUL 4 1939

Less Than Southern

There Is No Reason The Whole Section Should Accept This Blame

Last year the South lynched six Negroes. Of those, only one was lynched in the first six months of the period, five in the second six months. But this year, the number lynched up until July 1 was four. It is disheartening to observe that lynchings in the first half-year has quadrupled and that in all probability for the whole year they are going to be larger than for 1938.

To speak of the South here, however, is beginning to be a little unfair. Actually, most of the lynching for the last decade and more has been confined to four states: Florida, which accounts for two this year; Georgia, with one this year; Mississippi, with one; and Alabama, which has a clean record for the first half of 1939. Both North Carolina and Virginia (we have our fingers crossed) have demonstrated that it is possible for a Southern state to get rid of the thing as a habitual performance. Tennessee, too, for that matter, since most of the lynchings that take place there are staged by mobs from just over the border in Alabama, Mississippi or Arkansas And South Carolina has been doing a great deal better in recent years — a fact that disposes of the claim that lynching is the necessary concomitant of a very large Negro population.

The sole reason the thing keeps up in these states is simply that the communities in which they happen approve of or condone them. And it grows pretty tiresome. We have always doubted the wisdom of a Federal lynching law. But if these communities can't or won't clean up their own premises, then we suspect that ultimately states like North Carolina and Virginia are going to grow weary of disgracing themselves by appearing as their allies, and decide to let the Federals have 'em.

VICKSBURG, MISS. POST
JUL 5, 1939 J12

Anti-Lynch Law Advocates ---Attention!

The "lynching record" for the first six months c this year has just reached our desk from F. D. Pat terson, president of Tuskegee Institute, and while is not quite so gratifying as that made in 1938 nevertheless demonstrates conclusively that l ing is defintely on the way out.

Prof. Patterson reports that there were 4 lync ings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the firs six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which the lynchings occurred, according to Prof. Patterson, were Florida; 2; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Fifty years ago lynchings frequently ran well over wo hundred annually, but after a few years began o decrease and that decrease has been steady yea y year.

The fight against mob violence in the south has een carried on relentlessly by law enforcement offi ials and the thinking people of the south agains he small minority who believed in taking the l into their own hands when some particularly b tal crime would cause feeling to run high in community.

The majority of lynching crimes occurred in ru sections, poorly policed and where roads and co munication were poor and would occur so quick that law enforcement agencies were unable to ac in time to prevent such outrages.

But in all cases officials invariably did what coul be done to prevent, and if failing as they sometimes did, they would try to determine who committed lynching crimes and to punish them. But i was always a difficult matter to determine jus who composed the mob that did the lynching.

But the war against lynching grew in volume a time passed and the sentiment against lynching wa so unanimous and so strong that lynching has becom almost an evil of the past. Like duelling, it wil be entirely eliminated.

The southern states have spent millions of dollar in stamping out lynchings. Every year dozens o such crimes are prevented by prompt action of law officials and ways have been found to balk the collective action of the few who allow their feelings to run riot and would commit lynching crimes against society.

In face of the record to overcome the lynching evil in the south, where the people have had to deal with the race question, no basis can be found to justify the vicious anti-lynching movement in congress, which for the moment has given away to other legislative matters which demand the full time of congress.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
July 16, 1939

A Brighter Side

According to the Tuskegee Institute, four lynchings occurred in the Southern states during the first six months of 1939. During the same six months, according to the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, 11 possible lynchings were prevented by clear-headed and courageous Southern sheriffs. The lynchings were charged against three states. Preventions of possible or threatened lynchings are credited to seven.

Four lynchings in six months are not many, perhaps, by comparison with the records of earlier years—yet a vast majority of present-day Southerners agree that they are four too many. In all the Southern states a powerful public opinion condemns lynching as the ugly crime it is, and is moving to its prevention. The lynch-prevention showing constitutes encouraging and convincing evidence that the anti-lynching campaign is increasingly effective. The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching deserves thanks for presenting this brighter side.

This women's organization is taking an active part in the anti-lynching movement by circulation of literature on the subject, by direct appeals to sheriffs and by study of developments in the long campaign. In this latter connection one of the association officials reports indications that "the violent death of a negro at the hands of one white man" may sometimes be classed by lynching statisticians as a lynching and included in the lynching totals reported. "Unbiased investigations" of all cases in which lynching is charged "would prove invaluable," it is suggested, "not only in protecting the rights of citizens, but also in distinguishing between a murder and a lynching" and thus keeping the lynching record straight.

In any case the success of brave and intelligent Southern sheriffs in preventing threatened mob violence deserves hearty praise throughout the South and is a most encouraging "sign of the times."

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., CHRONICLE
JULY 10, 1939

Eventually Civilization Must Prevail Over Lynching

Lynching in the United States, which last year showed a falling off from the rolls of the three previous years, appears to have picked up again in the first six months of 1939. As against only six persons lynched in 1938 four have already suffered death at the hands of mobs in the first half of this year. In the first half of 1938 there was but 1. By States, the roster is: Florida 2, Georgia 1 and Mississippi 1. The figures are from the Tuskegee Institute, which keeps the records.

Comparison with last year shows that the States involved are three of the four in the 1938 list. Louisiana, which then made the fourth, is so far absent this year. Florida, Georgia and Mississippi were also present in the 1937 lynching roll, along with Alabama and Tennessee.

In the report for last year there were two encouraging features. No one of the persons lynched was taken from the hands of the law. In addition, there were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. As all but three of these were in Southern States the fact was significant. It could mean only, as we have been told by many observers, that the feeling against lynching is growing strong in the region which has been conspicuous for the offense. Generally speaking, the action, or lack of action, of the officers of the law in such cases reflects community opinion.

Tuskegee Institute has not yet reported on this class of cases for the current year. It may be hoped that last year's showing is being continued in this. That will be good evidence that civilization is spreading in the lynching regions. Civilization must eventually prevail.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. NEWS
JUL 5, 1939 J15

Do We Need That Law?

WE are indebted to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute for a few statistics involving lynchings in the South during the first six months of 1935. During this period, there were four lynchings in all—two in Florida, one in Georgia and one in Mississippi.

During that entire period there was not a single lynching in Alabama. Nor was there a single lynching in Alabama during 1938. In fact, if we are not mistaken, it has been something like two years or better since this state has seen a lynching. That, however, will not deter the boys who are advocating a federal anti-lynching law.

In imposing upon us this law, the federal government would invade an entirely new field of activity, using as it sole excuse the argument that the individual states are not capable of enforcing the law themselves. There has not been a single violation of the state anti-lynching law in two years in Alabama, and yet the boys up North insist that we need outside regulation! It doesn't take much insight to determine whether the advocates of the anti-lynching law are advocating it as a real law enforcement measure or as a method of currying political favor with the haters of the South in the metropolitan sections of this country.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. TIMES
JUL 4, 1939 J14

LYNCHINGS IN 1939

Twice each year, in January and in July, Tuskegee Institute summarizes the lynching record in the previous six months according to figures compiled by its Department of Records and Research. The report for the first six months this year has just been issued. Four lynchings have occurred so far this year, two in Florida, one in Georgia, and one in Mississippi. There were the same number of lynchings in the first six months of 1937. Last year at this time there had been only one.

The figure for this year shows that although sentiment for Federal anti-lynching legislation waxes and wanes, lynching continues to be a serious problem. It is entirely possible, of course, that each of the lynchings this year would have occurred had Federal legislation been on the statute books. Perhaps the record is as good as it has been in the past few years because State, county, and local law enforcement officers have found public sentiment demanding that greater protection be provided defendants in cases likely to lead to violence.

If there has been an improvement in recent years, it has grown out of a wider understanding of the brutal nature of the crime of lynching. In the campaign for education, for enlightened law enforcement methods, the Tuskegee Institute reports have played a part. They serve as reminders twice each year that much remains to be achieved in interracial relations and in pursuit of the ideal that all are entitled to equal treatment under the law.

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THE LYNCHING RECORD

As long as lynching continues it will be necessary for records to be kept. These records are informing and are doing a part in influencing sentiment against the lawless habit. Credit is due the research department of Tuskegee Institute for the continuous information that is being submitted semi-annually. This week we received a release from the occurrences of the past six months. It shows that there has been an increase over the same period of last year. Last year there was only one case of lynching recorded, while for this year it increased by three, making the number four. It is regretted to note that Georgia furnished one of these cases, with Florida two and Mississippi one. Just these three southern states are guilty of this atrocious crime, crediting the other southern states as being free from such an offence. Those of us in Georgia deplore the state's record in this respect, and express the wish there will be no other occurrence, especially during the remaining part of the year. It is gratifying to note that lynching is less popular than in former years, when for the least offense accused were given summary death.

Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
July 3, 1939

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6 MONTH RECORD ON LYNCHING TOLD

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., July 3.—Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research show that there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number (1) for the first six months of 1938(and the same number for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
July 3, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN 1939

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3.—(INS)—Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research announced today that for the first six months of 1939 there were four lynchings, all in the South, compared with only one for the same period of 1938. There were four for the first six months in 1937. The report listed two of the lynchings in Florida, and one in Georgia and Mississippi.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
July 3, 1939

Lynchings Increase In Southern States

There were four lynchings, an increase of three over the same period of 1938, in three southern states during the first six months of this year, according to information received from President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee institute, Alabama.

The report also shows that the number of lynchings for the first half of 1939 was the same as reported for the similar period of 1937. In the first six months of 1938 there was only one lynching.

The states in which lynchings occurred in the first half of the present year were: Florida, two; Georgia, one, and Mississippi, one.

Savannah, Ga., Press
July 3, 1939

FOUR WERE LYNCHED IN FIRST SIX MONTHS

TUSKEEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., July 3.—President F. D. Patterson of Tuskeegee Institute announced today there were four lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1939.

The report continued:

"This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
July 3, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS REPORTED

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of archives and research, there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number, one, for the first six months of 1938, and the same as the number for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 1.

Rock Hill, S. C. Herald
July 3, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN HALF OF '38

Tuskegee Institute Records Show Gain Over Past Year

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939, said President F. D. Patterson.

This is 3 more than the number, one for the first six months of 1938, and the same number, four, for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, two; Georgia, one, and Mississippi, one.

Sumter, S. C., Daily Item
July 3, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, July 3—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number (1) for the first six months of 1938, and the same number (4) for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
July 3, 1939

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4 Lynchings Reported In First Half of '39

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3.—(AP)—There were four lynchings, all of them in the south, in the first six months of 1939. Tuskegee institute's department of records and research had announced today.

The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937.

Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida, 2: Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 1.

Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
July 5, 1939

Tuskegee Institute Issues Report

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 4, 1939

FOUR LYNCH CASES PINNED ON SOUTH

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3—(AP)—There were four lynchings, all of them in the South, in the first six months of 1939, Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research had announced Monday.

The four lynchings this year compared with only one in the same period of 1938. There were four in the first six months of 1937.

Lynchings were listed by states as follows: Florida, two; Georgia, one, and Mississippi, one.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
July 3, 1939

Four Lynchings In First Half Of Present Year

The Tribune received the following letter today from President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

"This is 3 more than the number for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1."

Mobile, Ala., Press
July 3, 1939

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4 Lynchings Staged In 1st Half of Year

Four lynchings took place in southern states during the first six months of 1939, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported today. This was three more than in the first six months of 1938, and the same level as during the first six months of 1937. Two were reported in Florida, and one each in Georgia and Mississippi.

Shelbyville. Tenn. Times
July 11, 1939

FOUR LYNCHINGS REPORTED FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research here were 4 lynchings in the first ix months of 1939.

This is three more than for the irst six months of 1938, and the ame number for the first six onths of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state re as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, ; and Mississippi, 1.

Reidsville. N. C Review
July 3, 1939

Four Lynchings the First 6 Months 1939

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number one for the first six months of 1933, and the same number four for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Ozark, Ala., Star
July 6, 1939

Four Lynchings In The First 6 Months, 1939 Says Tuskegee

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is three more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Asheboro. N. C Tribune
July 6, 1939

Four Lynchings In South During First Half of 1939

There were four lynchings in the South in the first six months of 1939, according to a report from Tuskegee institute in Alabama.

This number is three more than for the first six months of 1938, while the same number, four, were reported during the first half of 1937.

The states in which lynchings ccurred and the number in each state are: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 1.

Montezuma. Ga. Georgian
July 6, 1939

Four Lynchings Are Reported During Past Six Months

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, July 1, 1939:

The Lynching Record for the First Six Months, 1939.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that there were 4 lynchings in the first six months of 1939.

This is 3 more than the number 1 for the first six months of 1938, and the same number 4 for the first six months of 1937.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. Patterson, President

LYNCHINGS - 1939
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN- DEC.

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BAY MINETTE, ALA. TIMES
DEC. 29, 1938 14

Lynchings In 1938

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, sent us the following information this week: "I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were 6 persons lynched in 1938. This is 2 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936, and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hands of the law . . ."

This is significant information, especially in view of the fact that the next Congress which convenes Tuesday will probably see another fight to pass the Anti-Lynching Act. This proposed law provides that the county in which a lynching occurs shall be forced to pay the national government a considerable sum of money. Of course the law is unjust and nothing but a ridiculous slap at the South.

This paper has continually held that there is no need for such a law, believing that the South would take care of its own problems. That the lynching problem is being improved upon is verified by the information sent out by Tuskegee.

The proposed law is especially unnecessary. Why should a county government be made to pay a fine if a lynching happens in its borders when officials do all they can to prevent it? As stated above not one of the persons lynched in 1938 was in the hands of the law and at the same time there were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. This proves that officers are doing their part.

If the South is not interrupted by some such law, within the next few years the lynching problem will be under control. For this reason Southern Senators and Congressmen must stand side by side and prevent any Anti-Lynching legislation from passing.

BALTIMORE MD MORNING SUN
SAT. DEC. 31 1938

ON THE WAY OUT

The annual report on the number of lynchings which comes from Tuskegee Institute at the close of the year makes hopeful reading. Only six persons have been put to death by mobs in 1938 as compared with eight in 1937 and a similar number in 1936. Six lynchings are bad, to be sure. Even one lynching a year is a disgrace to our people. But it is still possible to rejoice at the fact that such manifestations of the mob spirit are on the decline.

We have never had as few as six lynchings in one year before, and until recently we rarely had as few as twenty, which was the number of deaths by mobs reported by Tuskegee in 1935. The figures indicate that the Southern people are gradually making headway against the form of lawlessness which has long been their peculiar shame. This would be encouraging in any circumstances, but it seems particularly so at a time when there is much talk of a Federal anti-lynching law. It may be doubted whether a Federal anti-lynching law would accomplish any good, and it might do a great deal of harm by creating local resentments against outside intrusion in racial affairs.

But as long as lynching persists, demands for such an act may be expected to rise in Congress. The best answer to such demands is for the Southern States to take matters into their own hands and make it clear to would-be mobsters that lynching will not be tolerated. The Tuskegee reports make it clear that most Southern States are by way of demonstrating their fixity of purpose in this regard. If only the others, such as Florida, Georgia and Louisiana, which each had one lynching this year, and Mississippi, which had three, would follow suit, a shameful blot on our people would be wiped out, and the threat of Federal interference in local Southern affairs would be ended.

RALEIGH N C NEWS & OBSERVER
THUR. DEC. 29 1938

Lynchings in 1938

There is basis for true Southern pride in the fact, contained in a compilation just made by Tuskegee Institute, that there were two less lynchings in 1938 than in either 1937 or 1936 and 14 less than in 1935. And while the six lynchings of 1938 are items for shame in the South in which all of them occurred, there is evidence of progress in the comparison of these six acts of illegal and uncivilized violence with the fact that in 1895 there were 171, in 1900 there were 115, in 1910 there were 74 and in 1920 there were 61. The South does move toward faith in its own laws.

There is basis, too, for gratification in the fact that in 1938 officers of the law prevented lynchings, according to the Negro institution at Tuskegee, in 42 instances. Such a record reflects credit upon the increasing determination of Southern officers to defend the law which it is their duty to enforce. But these 42 mobs, unsuccessful as they were in their violent purposes, indicate that there are still in the South men who remain ignorant of the meaning of the law as a defense against every type of violence. In a horrible folly they would tear down the law to punish, as they see it, the crime against which the law is the only satisfactory defense.

And from the standpoint of the civilization of the South rescuing members of mobs from such violent folly and ignorance is as important a task as rescuing from them men who along with the law might be victim of their stupid and barbarous anger.

WASHINGTON D C POST
SAT. DEC. 31 1938

Six Lynchings In 1938

The lynching record for 1938 remains abominable only because four Southern States failed to maintain the law-enforcement standards which prevailed during the first part of the year, when the Federal anti-lynching bill was under discussion in the Senate. For several aspects of the report made public by Tuskegee Institute show real progress toward complete elimination of this barbarous type of crime.

Tuskegee finds that six persons were lynched in 1938, compared with eight in each of the years, 1936 and 1937, and 20 in 1935. Three of these mob murders occurred in Mississippi while Florida, Georgia and Louisiana each have one lynching to their discredit. In other words, the problem of wiping out this form of degeneracy appears now to be concentrated in a relatively small territory. If Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and Florida can be made to feel the shame which this stigma attaches to their law-enforcement systems, an end to all lynchings may soon be anticipated.

Even more encouraging than the decline in the total number of these murders are the preventive measures that were taken. Not one of the persons lynched was snatched from the hands of law-enforcement officers. Moreover, Tuskegee reports that 53 persons, 50 of them Negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs by the precautionary efforts of law-enforcement authorities. In most of these instances prisoners were removed to places of safety or guards were augmented. One State properly called upon its armed forces to thwart the murderous intentions of a mob.

This heartening part of the record, plus the fact that no lynching occurred during the first part of the year, indicates that the States are fully capable of preventing such outrages where there is the will to do so. It is the cultivation of that will on which all decent citizens should now concentrate their efforts.

There is little likelihood that the constitutionally objectionable Federal anti-lynching bill will be revived if the South continues to improve its record. Nevertheless, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana should be made to realize that it is their inexcusable laxity which keeps the threat of Federal intervention alive. Other Southern States whose skirts are now clear have special reason to use their influence against barbarity which has become a menace to fundamental States' rights as well as to law and order.

PORTLAND ME PRESS HERALD
MONDAY JANUARY 2 1939

The Lynching Record

President Patterson of Tuskegee Institute has announced the annual report upon lynchings in the United States during 1938. There were six persons lynched, two fewer than in 1937 or in 1936; and 14 fewer than in 1935. More important, not one of the six persons lynched was taken from law officers; and in 42 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings, three in northern states. In 41 of the lynching preventions the prisoners were removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken; in the 42nd instance, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. "A total of 53 persons, three white men, 49 Negro men and one Negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of the mob." The reasons alleged for the lynchings were insulting remarks to a woman, one; failure to complete payment on a funeral bill, one; rape, one; murder, three. Florida, Georgia and Louisiana had one lynching each; Mississippi had the other three.

It is not a good record, to be sure, when six lynchings occur in the United States; we have to make a mental reservation because of the fact when we charge brutality against other countries; but the lynching record is steadily improving. The reason is obvious: the fact that there were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. But a few years ago, there were few instances of such protection. It may be true that the intervention of the law is not primarily to protect Negroes but to protect the good name of the states. That is relatively unimportant; the plain fact is that public sentiment is slowly building against lynching; year by year the record improves; sometime, perhaps in 1939, will come a report of no lynchings at all.

WATERBURY CONN REPUBLICAN

JAN 2 1939

Better Lynching Record

ANNUAL figures on lynching, issued by Tuskegee Institute show that the 1938 number of lives claimed by mob violence in the United States is down two from the total for each of the two previous years and down 14 from the dismal record of 1935. The complete report appears in the letter column on this page this morning.

The 1938 showing indicates progress, attributable we suppose more to the threat of a federal anti-lynching law than to any independent conclusion among Southerners that mobs should let the law take its course and authorities be really vigilant in the protection of their prisoners.

But from whatever cause we have a less shocking lynch law score and for that thanks. And perhaps the threat of federal action has been all needed to make the better element of Southern communities impress upon the baser element the need of cleaning their own houses if the nation is not to do it for them.

Mob violence has never any excuse but it has less than none today, when the Nazis, nettled by American criticism of their government's atrocious course, are quick to point to our own discrimination against the Negro as arguing a less than perfect racial tolerance.

Let's hope for even fewer lynchings in 1939.

Brunswick, Ga., News
December 31, 1938

A GRATIFYING REPORT

While every right-thinking Georgian will receive with a good deal of satisfaction the annual report of Tuskegee Institute showing that only one lynching took place in this state during 1938, and that the toll for the nation was but six, it is extremely unfortunate that a single instance of mob violence should have occurred within the confines of this commonwealth.

But what has been done has been done, and looking on the brighter side those who strive for better racial relationship will find much that is encouraging. First, records for the last four years show that there has been a steady decline in lynchings throughout the entire country. For the years 1937 and 1936 the totals were eight victims, two more than 1938, while in 1935 20 persons were lynch victims.

While there of course is never any possible excuse for lynching, it has, unfortunately, long been an "old southern custom" for officers to make little if any resistance when a mob has demanded a prisoner. The Tuskegee report for this year also shows the gratifying fact that this practice is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. For, the report points out, there were 42 instances during the year when attempted lynchings were prevented by conscientious guardians of the law. And, what is particularly cheering, 39 of those successful attempts to prevent mob action occurred in southern states. Regrettably, the Georgia lynching might have been prevented had the responsible officers exercised anything resembling precaution.

All of the six persons lynched were negroes, accused of crimes varying from failure to complete payment for a funeral, to rape.

In all, 53 persons were saved from the hands of mobs. Of that aggregate three were white men, one was a negro woman and the rest were negro men.

The record which has been made this year is a clear indication that the people of the United States are rapidly growing less and less tolerant of mob rule. Nothing could reflect that attitude better than the marked decrease in victims does. Our laws, being human-made are not perfect, nor do they always provide just punishment. However, with all their faults, they are certainly superior to mob standards of justice.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
January 1, 1939

1938 LYNCH RECORD.

We should find some measure of pride and encouragement in the fact, contained in a compilation by Tuskegee Institute, that there were two less lynchings in 1938 than in either 1937 or 1936 and 14 less than in 1935. And while the six lynchings in 1938—all reported in the South—are just six too many, there is evidence of progress in the comparison of these six acts of illegal and uncivilized violence with the fact that in 1895 there were 171, in 1900 there were 115, in 1910 there were 74 and in 1920 there were 61. The South does move toward faith in its own laws.

There is basis, too, for gratification in the fact that in 1938 officers of the law prevented lynchings, according to the Negro institution at Tuskegee, in 42 instances. Such a record reflects credit upon the increasing determination of Southern officers to defend the law which it is their duty to enforce.

Sanford, Fla. Herald
January 3, 1939

The Lynching Record

If any members of Congress feel disposed during the current session to waste the time of that important body debating lynching bills when so many necessary measures are hanging fire, let them consider the report of the Tuskegee Institute for the year of 1938 showing how lynching has declined in the South without the help of federal intervention.

According to F. D. Patterson, president of the Institute, only six persons were lynched in the South during the entire year. This is two less than in 1937, two less than in 1936, and 14 less than in 1935. Six lynchings as compared with a generation ago, when a hundred or more a year was commonplace, represent a tremendous improvement.

Indicating that local officers can prevent lynchings when they want to, President Patterson goes on to show that there were 42 instances during the year when the immediate removal of prisoners to places of safety probably prevented lynchings. In none of the six cases where lynchings actually occurred were the victims in the hands of the law.

In at least five of the six cases the offenses charged were sufficiently serious to justify vigorous punishment. Three were murder, one was rape, one was making insulting remarks to a woman, one, strangely enough, was the failure to make a final payment on a funeral bill.

Three of the lynchings during 1938 occurred in Mississippi, one of them in Georgia, one in Louisiana; and be it said to Florida's shame, one of them occurred in this state. Let us hope that 1939 will see a further decline in the lynching totals and that Florida will be among those states which have completely eliminated this evil.

Three Lynchings

In a period of blackouts, gloom and justifiable pessimism, it is especially pleasing to note the gradual lifting of one shadow that has darkened the United States' claim to civilization. The barbarous practice of lynching appears to be rapidly nearing extinction.

Only four years ago 20 lives were taken in this country by crazed mobs. In each of the years 1936 and 1937 eight persons fell victim to the substitution of savagery for law. In 1938 lynchings were reduced to six. And for 1939 the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute reports that only two Negroes and one white man were lynched.

So long as mass murder is tolerated in a single instance it will remain a foul stain upon the State permitting it. A country which clings to the democratic tradition, which boasts of its Bill of Rights and frowns upon barbarous practices abroad can never rest easy until this irrational and inhuman practice is completely and finally abolished. Nevertheless, the progress made in the last four years is remarkable. It indicates how quickly this blot on American law enforcement can be wiped out once such action is emphatically demanded by public opinion.

In only one respect is the 1939 record of lynchings worse than that of the preceding year. Two of this year's victims were taken from the hands of the law—one from a jail and the other from an officer out in the open. Last year officers succeeded in defending all prisoners sought by mobs after they had once been arrested. As against the two instances of inadequate protection, however, reports to Tuskegee indicate that 25 persons were saved from mob action by State officers.

Perhaps the most hopeful fact contained in the Tuskegee report is the decline in attempted lynchings. In 1938, mobs were reported to have threatened the lives of 56 persons. They succeeded in carrying out their dastardly purpose in six instances. This year, reports indicate that the number against which mob sentiment was aroused, as well as the number actually murdered, was exactly cut in half. The record suggests that more progress was made in stamping out mob psychology than in actual enforcement of the law.

In any event, the shame associated with mass murder now is concentrated in two States. Florida permitted two lynchings this year, compared with one in 1938. Mississippi reduced its lynchings, during the same period, from three to one. Both Georgia and Louisiana are entitled to congratulations for clearing their records. Presumably they have joined the great majority of Southern States in which mob slayings are no longer tolerated.

With the "lynchin' country" thus reduced in area, and with Federal anti-lynching legislation properly abandoned, Florida and Mississippi must expect the pressure of public opinion to concentrate upon them with increased poignancy. They are now solely responsible for a stigma that, in the eyes of other countries, still attaches to the United States as a whole. Both States should realize that their laxity in protecting persons suspected of crime will subject them to growing contempt until lynching is abolished within their borders.

Post
12-31-39
Washington D.C.

THE DECLINE OF LYNCHING

Apparently American morons are losing their taste for lynching bees. Tuskegee Institute, the faithful keeper of records on the progress of mob pilgrims, reports that in the year just ending we have had but three lynchings in the Union. Two in Florida, one in Mississippi. Even South Carolina and Georgia failed to get into the record. We trust they are not miffed.

The Anniston Star, long a foe of mobsters, like other newspapers in Alabama, is gratified at this splendid record for 1939. Says The Star:

> Law enforcement officers have laid more stress than ever upon the protection of their prisoners when feeling is high. No longer do they take them to a local jail and trust that their numbers and the impressiveness of the law will make them secure. Now, throughout Alabama, at times when authorities feel that mob feeling might imperil the life of one in their custody they remove them to another bailiwick, usually an unannounced one, as a greater safeguard.
>
> We find the Tuskegee report most favorable to Alabama. For a year at least we have gone without having to report the death of a prisoner.
>
> The mob spirit appears not to have
>
> been assistant in the South's record for the year, however. The Tuskegee report says there were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in Southern states. In all instances, the report sets out, the persons were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Twenty-five persons, five white and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.
>
> Two of the lynched men were Negroes and one white. The offenses charged were murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.
>
> Comparison of the record shows that the three this year was three less than the six of 1938; five less than the eight of 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than 20 for 1935. Only two of the men were taken from an officer outside the jail and another was taken from jail.
>
> With the cultivation of greater intelligence among our peace officers, men who hold a respect for the law close to their hearts, the South will solve the lynch problem without outside help. Our only regret is that there were as many as three lynchings in the one year.

Back in the nineties it was taken for granted that there might be a total of at least 100 lynchings annually in the Union and in some years we believe—we are guessing now—the total far exceeded 200, virtually all of these crimes occurring in the magnoliaed South.

At last, however, public opinion was whipped into reverse position. Enlightened newspaper editors and enlightened statesmen are responsible for it. In Alabama, for example, most of the newspaper editors for as far back as this reporter can remember have been hammering away at the mob spirit, just as at the turn of the century they were hammering away at the evil of pistol-toting. They virtually broke up pistol-toting as a popular custom among men. Now mobs are going out of fashion.

Most significantly, Alabama has never had a governor who was in sympathy with lynch law. It has never had a governor who did not instinctively rebel against an outbreak of the mob. We have had our quota of time-servers, opportunists and demagogues in the executive offices on Goat Hill, to be sure, but it is to the everlasting credit of the people of Alabama that they have yet to elect a governor who had any respect for or patience with a mob.

Some other Southern states have been less fortunate. There have been governors of other Southern states in the last half century who openly condoned mob action—but never ONE in Alabama! On the contrary, in this state our governors have been quick to call out the national guard to protect prisoners, and upon occasion they have demanded the impeachment of sheriffs whom they believed to be guilty of neglect of duty in protecting suspects.

Ultimately the bloody stain left by moronic mobsters on the escutcheon of the south will be removed. Speed the day!

Advertiser
12-28-39
Montgomery Ala.

LESS LYNCHING.

If the United States were truly civilized no lynchings would occur. The three lynchings this year covered by the annual report of the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute, however, give the nation a better record than usual. In 1935 there were 23 lynchings. Substantial improvement developed in 1936 when eight persons were lynched and was maintained in 1937 when the mob toll was eight. Last year six persons were lynched. This progressive decline has raised hope that no lynchings will occur in 1940.

The improvement has not been brought about haphazardly. The public, stirred by repeated mob violence, has caused lawmaking bodies to undertake elimination of weakness on the part of law enforcement officials supposed to protect accused criminals. In some states officials who do not do everything possible for protection of prisoners against mobs are classified as felons. An interesting point is that 18 lynchings were averted in the United States this year by law enforcement officials living up to their oaths of office.

Tribune
12-31-39
Chicago Ill.

Record-Low Reached in Lynch-Murders

Age-Herald

1-3-40

THOUGH DEALING primarily with economic problems and related industrial progress in an illuminating Yale Review article—appropriately entitled, "The South Do Move"—George Fort Milton, former editor of the Chattanooga News, has a heartening word to say about the section's social and civic advancement:

"The last decade has witnessed a distinct betterment in race relations. For one thing, lynchings and race riots have decreased. A Southern Commission (which Mr. Milton served as chairman) pioneered in objectively studying the background and motivation of lynchings, and its findings helped build public opinion to improve racial relationships."

No doubt, that fact-finding service, begun 10 years ago—along with the educational work which other influential civic groups, schools and churches, newspapers and theaters consistently pursued—contributed to the remarkable result that Tuskegee Institute lately reported:

During 1939 only three lynchings were recorded—the lowest figure for any year in the more than half-century during which the Institute's Records and Research department has counted them. Of course, credit is due that very service, which effectively has kept an ugly fact in the public eye and aroused an enlightened civic conscience, demanding that the evil be eradicated.

It is noteworthy that all three mob crimes in 1939 were committed in two traditional strongholds of lynch "law"—one in Mississippi and two in Florida. Significantly, too, not one lynch-murder victim had been charged with "the usual crime." A Florida white man, charged with murder, was shot to death by a mob—all white. The other person lynched in that State was a Negro who accidentally had run down and killed a white youth. The Mississippi victim was hanged for having "sassed" a white man—by long-established tradition, a crime in that State.

Peace officers' courage and resourcefulness in facing the mob thwarted 25 attempted lynchings. More such official stamina, properly supported civically, might eradicate the evil forever.

THE DECLINE OF LYNCHING

Apparently American morons are losing their taste for lynching bees. Tuskegee Institute, the faithful keeper of records on the progress of mob pilgrims, reports that in the year just ending we have had but three lynchings in the Union. Two in Florida, one in Mississippi. Even South Carolina and Georgia failed to get into the record. We trust they are not miffed.

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12-28-39

We find the Tuskegee report most favorable to Alabama. For a year at least we have gone without having to report the death of a prisoner.

The mob spirit appears not to have been assistant in the South's record for the year, however. The Tuskegee report says there were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in Southern states. In all instances, the report sets out, the persons were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Twenty-five persons, five white and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Montgomery, Ala.

Two of the lynched men were Negroes and one white. The offenses charged were murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

Comparison of the record shows that the three this year was three less than the six of 1938; five less than the eight of 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than 20 for 1935. Only two of the men were taken from an officer outside the jail and another was taken from jail.

With the cultivation of greater intelligence among our peace officers, men who hold a respect for the law close to their hearts, the South will solve the lynch problem without outside help. Our only regret is that there were as many as three lynchings in the one year.

Back in the nineties it was taken for granted that there might be a total of at least 100 lynchings annually in the Union and in some years we believe—we are guessing now—the total far exceeded 200, virtually all of these crimes occurring in the magnoliaed South.

At last, however, public opinion was whipped into reverse position. Enlightened newspaper editors and enlightened statesmen are responsible for it. In Alabama, for example, most of the newspaper editors for as far back as this reporter can remember, have been hammering away at the mob spirit, just as at the turn of the century they were hammering away at the evil of pistol-toting. They virtually broke up pistol-toting as a popular custom among men. Now mobs are going out of fashion.

Most significantly, Alabama has never had a governor who was in sympathy with lynch law. It has never had a governor who did not instinctively rebel against an outbreak of the mob. We have had our quota of time-servers, opportunists and demagogues in the executive offices on Goat Hill to be sure, but it is to the everlasting credit of the people of Alabama that they have yet to elect a governor who had any respect for or patience with a mob.

Some other Southern states have been less fortunate. There have been governors of other Southern states in the last half century who openly condoned mob action—but never ONE in Alabama! On the contrary, in this state our governors have been quick to call out the national guard to protect prisoners, and upon occasion they have demanded the impeachment of sheriffs whom they believed to be guilty of neglect of duty in protecting suspects.

Ultimately the bloody stain left by moronic mobsters on the escutcheon of the south will be removed. Speed the day!

Wilmington N C News [illegible]
December 31, 1939

THREE LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN 1939

One White Man, Two Negroes Victims Of Mobs During The Year

ATLANTA, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Religious and civic agents, together with vigilant peace officers, proved effective in reducing the nation's toll from mob violence in 1939, the commission on inter-racial cooperation reported today.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission, whose membership includes educators and civic leaders united to bring about a better understanding between the races, asserted that the "lynch habit" in the United States "is being steadily pushed off the map."

The record of three lynchings in 1939, as reported by Tuskegee Institute, Eleazer declared, represented the smallest number for any year since 1882, when lynchings were first tabulated, and compared with the peak of 231 mob deaths in 1892.

(Tuskegee Institute reported one white man and one negro were victims of mobs in Florida in 1939, while the third mob victim, a negro, met death in Mississippi.)

Huntsville, Ala. Times
December 31, 1939

1939 Lynchings Down To Three

Number Is Smallest Recorded for Any Year Since 1882

ATLANTA, Dec. 30 (AP)—Religious and civic agencies, together with vigilant peace officers, proved effective in reducing the nation's toll from mob violence in 1939, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation reported today.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission, whose membership includes educators and civic leaders united to bring about a better understanding between the races, asserted that the "lynch habit" in the United States "is being steadily pushed off the map."

The record of three lynchings in 1939, as reported by Tuskegee Institute, Eleazer declared, represented the smallest number for any year since 1882, when lynchings were first tabulated, and compared with the peak of 231 mob deaths in 1892.

"Crimes against women, mistakenly thought of as the usual cause of mob violence, did not appear in any of the lynchings of this year," asserted Eleazer.

Pointing out that lynchings occurred in 30 states in 1885, Eleazer added that "of late the habit has been localized more and more in the South, in 1936 limited to three Southern states, and in 1939 to only two."

(Tuskegee Institute reported one white man and one negro were victims of mobs in Florida in 1939 while the third mob victim, a negro, met death in Mississippi.)

Among the factors listed by Eleazer as contributing to the decline of lynching were "numerous religious and civic agencies that have maintained an educational campaign against it," and the effective alertness of state highway patrolmen and county officers.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, organized in Atlanta in 1930, was mentioned as "perhaps the most notable" civic body conducting an educational program against lynching.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
REPCRTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN. - DEC.

6294

REPORT ONLY THREE LYNCHINGS IN U.S. FOR 1939

Plain Dealer 12-29-39

TUSKEGEE Ala.—In a letter from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, this week, he reports a decease in lynching for 1939. President's letter said:

Dear Sir::

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1939. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were three persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; five less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all other instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi,1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson
President

Kansas C

Lynchings Take Sharp Drop; Three Recorded In 1939

Tuskegee Institute Reports Violence In Florida, Mississippi

Age-Herald

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — (AP) — Only three lynchings, a sharp decrease from former years, have occurred in the United States in 1939, as far as the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute has determined.

12-31-39

Two occurred in Florida, where a white man accused of murder was shot to death by members of his own race, and a Negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi Negro, killed, the report said, following an altercation with a white man.

There were 18 instances in which law enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, "saved from the hands of mobs."

Twenty lynchings—a record in recent years—were reported in 1935. The institute listed eight each in 1936 and 1937 and six in 1938.

Lynchings Diminish In 1939

Journal & Guide

12-30-39

Norfolk Va

ACCORDING to a report of the department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, just released, three persons were lynched in the United States during 1939. Of the persons lynched two were colored and one was white. One was charged with murder; one with fatally injuring a boy in an automobile accident, and one got into an altercation with another man. The "usual crime" did not figure in the three recorded lynchings.

Two of the mob murders occurred in Florida and the other in Mississippi. The white man was lynched in Florida and was charged with murder.

Tuskegee reports that the 1939 record is three less than the six lynchings for the year 1938; five less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935.

Two of the persons lynched, says Tuskegee, were taken from the hands of the law, one from jail and one from an officer outside of jail.

The Tuskegee department of research and records undertakes to keep track of attempted lynchings, and reports that there were 18 instances in which officers of the law prevented mobs from taking the law into their own hands. All of these instances occurred in the South, it is reported, and 25 persons, five white and 20 colored were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. It is apparent that had not the officers in question performed their duties 28 persons instead of three would have been lynched in 1939.

It is apparent from this showing that lynching can be totally eradicated when officers of the law make up their minds that there will be no lynchings.

There is always some conflict between authorities keeping records on the number of lynchings which occur from year to year in the United States. For example the records of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People show that there were 39 lynchings during 1935-36. Tuskegee Institute reported 28 for the same period. We have now to hear from the NAACP for 1939.

Tuskegee Bureau Total Is 3 Less Than Previous Year

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—Three persons were lynched during the year of 1939, according to the report complied in the Department of Records and Research released this week by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee.

This is three less than the number six for the year 1938; five less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1938; and seventeen less than the number twenty for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail. 12-28-39

There were eighteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, the Tuskegee release revealed. All of these instances reported were in Southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken.

A total number of 25 persons, five white men and twenty Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, two were Negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, one; altercation with man, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, two; Mississippi, one.

Tuskegee Lists 3 1939 Lynchings

Afro American

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Three persons were lynched in the United States, during 1939, according to the report compiled by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute.

12-30-39

Baltimore

Two were colored persons and one was white. Florida and Mississippi were the States in which the crimes occurred. Florida had two. The record is three less than the six of 1928; five less than 1937 and 1936, and seventeen less than 1935.

Eighteen lynchings were prevented by law officers. Two of the 1939 lynchings were instances in which victims were taken from officers. One from a jail and one from an officer outside of the jail

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NEW YORK TIMES

DEC 31 1939

3 LYNCHED IN U. S. IN 1939

Tuskegee Report Reveals Drop From Preceding Years

XX

Three persons were lynched in 1939 in the United States as of Dec. 21, according to a report issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute, industrial educational institution for Negroes at Tuskegee, Ala. The report, based on findings of the institute's department of records and research, showed that six persons had been lynched in this country last year, eight had been lynched in each of the years 1937 and 1936 and twenty in 1935.

Of those lynched in 1939 two were Negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were murder, fatal injury to a boy in a motor car accident and an altercation with a man. There were two lynchings in Florida and one in Mississippi. Two of the lynching victims were taken from the protection of the law, one from jail and the other from a law officer outside jail.

"There were eighteen reports," said Dr. Patterson, "of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching. All of these instances reported were in Southern States. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of twenty-five persons, five white men and twenty Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs."

Lynchings

Charleston Gazette

1-5-40

In 1882, the first year for which figures are available, there were 113 lynchings in the United States. The greatest number for any one year since was 231 in 1892. Since, the number has, with fluctuations up and down, steadily declined until 1939 when there were but three, one being hardly a lynching as only two men were in the party.

For much of this progress from savagery to higher civilization we have the Tuskegee institute to thank. Its appeal and reasoning have been courteous and sensible. It has never faltered in striving for its objective. While its first interest was to protect the southern Negro from the inhuman practice of lynching, it has stressed also the blot of lynching on the name of our country and it has sought equally to protect the white man with the Negro.

Charleston W. Va.

The past several years the number of lynchings in this country has been almost negligible. That it has almost been wiped out the past year is probably as high a mark as we may hope to attain. It will fluctuate up and down from now on. We shall always have a small class of people of low mentality who engage in such practices, actuated by sadism.

Mob psychology is a curious human trait that expresses itself in wars as well as lynchings. The excitement is a motivating influence. It takes form in unexpected ways at times and it can only be controlled by watchfulness and preparedness of constituted authority.

Thanks mainly to the Tuskegee institute our law enforcement officers all over the country now guard against mob violence. Even in the deep south sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys and judges have gained a keener conception of their responsibilities to law and order and are prepared to protect them even at their own personal risk.

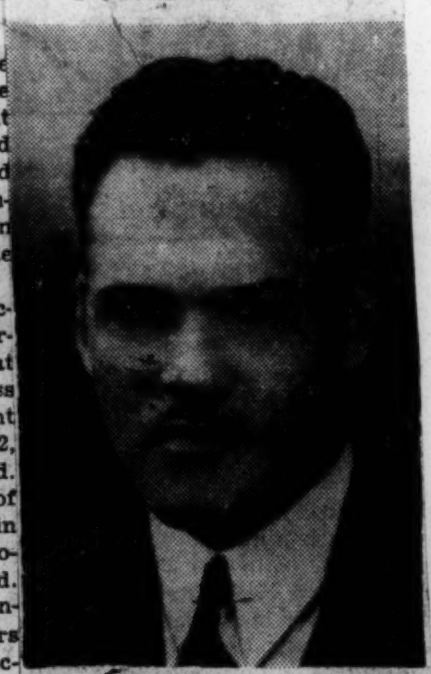
Dating back from reconstruction days following the Civil war there has been an erroneous idea that lynchings were necessary to control the lawless element of the Negro population. It has been our observation that no larger percentage of Negroes than whites is inclined to lawlessness. By far the larger proportion of the Negroes are law abiding, self respecting and eager to protect our institutions. The progress the race has made is no better evidenced than by the patient, peaceful, intelligent, successful fight the Negro has made against the crime of lynching.

LYNCHINGS REDUCED TO 3 FOR WHOLE COUNTRY IN '39

Times 12-31-39 Newspaper

Mob Violence in Eighteen Other Cases Was Prevented by Increased Precautions, Report Compiled in South Says

TUSKEGEE HEAD



Times Wide World

The institute headed by Dr. F. D. Patterson aids in compiling an annual report on lynchings.

By GEORGE HATCHER

ATLANTA, Dec. 30—Only three lynchings, the lowest number since records were begun fifty-eight years ago, occurred in the United States during 1939, it was disclosed today in annual reports of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation in Atlanta and Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, pointed out that the 1939 figure is 96 per cent less than the average and 99 per cent less than the peak year of 1892, when 231 lynchings were recorded.

"The nation can well be proud of the progress that has been made in efforts to eradicate the mob-violence evil," Mr. Eleazer said. "While the expansion of law-enforcement agencies in recent years has been a major contributing factor, most of the credit must fall to religious and civic agencies which have crusaded against it."

Lynchings Prevented

During 1939 there were reports of eighteen instances in which lynchings were prevented. This was accomplished either by the transfer of suspects to secret jails or by the augmenting of guards and "other precautions."

"A total number of twenty-five persons—five white men and twenty Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs," the reports state.

Of the persons lynched, two were Negroes and one was white. Two of the lynchings were in Florida and the other one was in Mississippi.

The year's first lynching occurred at Panama City, Fla., on April 1, when Miles W. Brown, a white man, was shot to death after being taken from the Bay County jail by a hand of "four or five" masked men. Brown had been convicted of the first-degree murder of a former employer, with a recommendation for mercy, which carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. Brown's jail guards quoted the masked men as expressing resentment that Brown had not received the death penalty, and saying that "the law didn't do justice but we will."

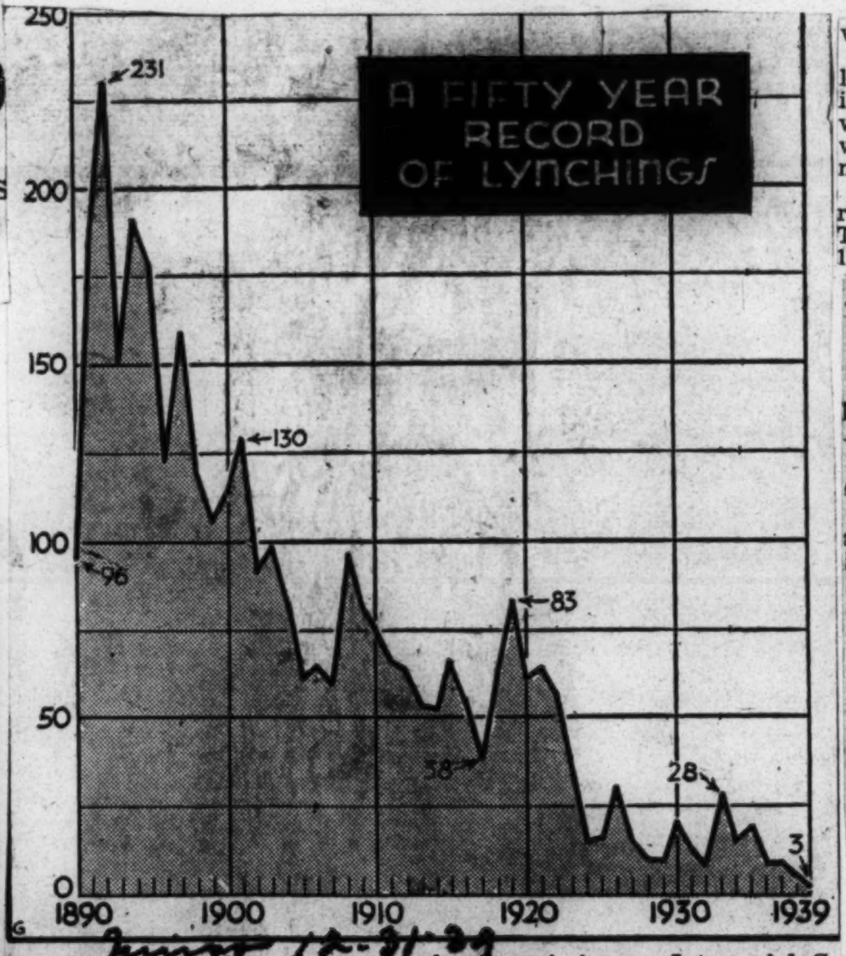
Another Florida Case

The second lynching took place on April 29 near Daytona Beach, Fla. An automobile driven by Lee Snell, Negro taxi driver, struck a bicycle ridden by Benny Blackwelder, 12. The boy was killed almost instantly. Snell was immediately taken into custody by Daytona Beach police and held for county authorities. A few hours afterward, Constable James Durden swore out a warrant for Snell, charging him with manslaughter. He took the prisoner in custody and started for Deland, the county seat. When he had got about four miles from Daytona Beach, Constable Durden said he was overtaken and passed by an automobile occupied by Everett and Earl Blackwelder, brothers of the boy killed.

According to Constable Durden, the Blackwelders swung their car across the road, blocking it. When Snell got out of the constable's automobile, several shots were fired into his body, the officer stated. The brothers were indicted on a first-degree murder charge but were acquitted.

The third victim of lynching was Joe Rogers, a Negro sawmill worker at Canton, Miss. Rogers allegedly engaged in an altercation with a white foreman of the sawmill. The foreman, according to witnesses, was struck on the head and knocked unconscious. Several days later the Negro's body was found in Pearl River near Canton, bound and badly beaten.

According to Mr. Eleazer, there have been 4,689 recorded lynchings in the United States since 1882.



Times 12-31-39

The chart is based on figures of the Commission on Interracial Co operation—Lynchings this year were the least on record.

Lynchings Take Sharp Drop; Three Recorded In 1939

Tuskegee Institute Reports Violence In Florida, Mississippi

News

12-31-39

Birmingham Ala

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — (AP) — Only three lynchings, a sharp decrease from former years, have occurred in the United States in 1939, as far as the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute has determined.

Two occurred in Florida, where a white man accused of murder was shot to death by members of his own race, and a Negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi Negro, killed, the report said, following an altercation with a

white man.

There were 18 instances in which law enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, "saved from the hands of mobs."

Twenty lynchings—a record in recent years—were reported in 1935. The institute listed eight each in 1936 and 1937 and six in 1938.

Tuskegee Reports Lynchings in 1939

Dallas

12-30-39

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. —Only Florida with two lynchings and Mississippi with one kept the United States from having a lynchless year in 1939 according to reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee, according to President F. D. Patterson, this week.

This is 3 less than the number of 6 for the year 1938; less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1

Three Lynched During Year '39

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(SNS)—Three persons were lynched in 1939, three less than the number six for the year 1938, according to reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute and released Tuesday through F. D. Patterson, president. The 1939 total number of lynchings is five less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936, and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935.

According to the report, two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

Officers of the law prevented lynchings in 18 instances, Dr. Patterson reported. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, five white men and 20 Negro men were saved from the hands of mobs, the records show.

Two of the lynchings occurred in Florida, while one was recorded in Mississippi. Of the persons lynched, two were Negroes and one was white. Offenses charged were murder, fatal injury to boy in automobile accident and altercation with man.

Lynchings Decline To Three In 1939

Call 12·29·39 Kansas City

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE—A marked decrease in lynchings was seen during the year 1939 when only three were recorded by the Tuskegee institute department of records and research.

According to the report issued this week by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee, the year's three lynchings occurred in two states, Florida having two and Mississippi one.

This year's lynching toll is three less than the number six occurring in 1938. In 1937 and 1936, there were eight lynchings. In 1935 there were 20.

Of the lynch victims, two were taken from the hands of the law one from jail and the other from an officer of the law outside the jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

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There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevent lynchings. All of these instances reported were in the southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, five white men and 20 colored men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, two were colored and one was white. The offenses charged were: Murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Guardian

Boston Mass

12-30-39

The Tuskegee Institute's report reveals a marked decline in lynchings. Mobs succeeded in murdering three persons in 1939. One of the victims was white. All three lynchings were in southern states.

The 1939 record is 17 less than in 1935. Nevertheless there is plenty of evidence that the lynch spirit still runs strong in the South. In the course of the year a total of 25 persons, 20 colored and five white, were saved from lynch mobs through the precaution and courage of officers of the law, says the Tuskegee report. This seems proof of the old contention that most lynchings are made possible through the connivance of peace officers, and that if law-enforcement authorities would perform the duties with which they are entrusted there would be fewer lynchings. No doubt a better sentiment in the South has grown strong enough to be respected and perhaps feared by local government officials. But the year's record of lynch-prevention shows the South is still in great need of regeneration

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LYNCH THREE DURING 1939

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Three persons were lynched in 1939 according to reports compiled in the Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research.

This is three less than the number six for the year 1938, five less than

6296

LYNCHINGS- 1939 JAN- DEC. (Editorials)
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

This Lynching Problem

[illegible] 1-5-40 [illegible] Fla.

Some time ago it was my pleasure and privilege to appear in a debate with Mr. Mark Ethridge, of The Courier-Journal, the debate being on the subject of the Federal anti-lynch law.

Mr. Ethridge is one of the most able men in the newspaper world and a two-fisted speaker. He had the affirmative of the subject, "Resolved that a Federal anti-lynch bill is desirable." It was a no-decision debate, but Mr. Ethridge won by a majority in all precincts. Mr. Ethridge almost convinced me.

Nevertheless, I still think I was right. A Federal anti-lynch bill would provoke lynchings; would drive them underground into a more sinister form, and would be a great incentive for the creation of vicious organizations.

Lynchings will be stopped when public interest is aroused against them and when peace officers of character and courage are the rule and not the exception.

All of this is but a preamble to some very strong evidence to support the argument that progress is being made.

According to its custom, Tuskegee Institute in near-by Alabama, has made public its annual analysis of lynchings in the United States.

It is the most significant report in the long history of the reports.

In 1935 there were 20 lynchings.

In 1936 there were but eight.

In 1937 the number again was eight.

By 1938 it was down to six.

Last year there were but three.

Florida had two lynchings, Mississippi one. In no case was the crime of rape involved.

One of those lynched was a white man; the other two negroes.

The offenses bringing about the lynchings were a murder, an altercation and the fatal injury of a boy who was run down by an automobile.

Two of those lynched were taken from officers of the law. One was removed from a jail, the other from the custody of officers.

It has been the custom for those who annually introduce the anti-lynch bill in Congress to point the finger of scorn at the South and declare that local peace officers cannot be depended upon to enforce the law.

While the majority of those who introduce and support the anti-lynch bills are insincere and playing brazen politics, it nevertheless was true there often was basis for their charges.

It is, therefore, most gratifying to note that the Tuskegee report reveals of the 18 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, the South contributed 17 cases.

It is obvious that had the 17 attempts been successful, the South's record would have been disgraceful. This serves to etch more sharply the work of the peace officers.

By foresight, by ruse and by determined courage in the face of the mob, the peace officers in 17 instances prevented a blot on the records of Southern justice.

The character and the courage of Southern law enforcement officers has grown. It has grown not through the threat of Federal legislation but through an awakening public demand for such action.

Cobb County almost had mob violence. A few illiterate, pimply-faced youths, described by Editor Otis Brumby in his famed editorials as "You Yellow Rats," were halted by the appearance of the highway patrol who gave moral support to Smyrna's one peace officer.

Public indignation runs high in the face of a revolting crime. But rarely does it run so high in the caliber of men who take part in a mob, that it will cause them to risk their own lives to take that of another.

A determined sheriff who will kill rather than surrender his prisoner can cool off a mob quicker than any one factor. The mob invariably is a coward.

A Federal law would but change the method of killing. It would make it secret. It would cause lynchings to arise from even more inadequate causes than provoked of our past years. Bodies would be found in a ditch or field.

The record of 1939 may not be a real indication of the public attitude. One revolting crime one cowardly peace officer, can ruin the record in 1940. But every indication points toward the fact that human life and justice have higher standards of value—that education and not legislation is doing the job of eliminating lynching —Ralph McGill in The Atlanta Constitution.

Three Too Many Lynchings

Afro-American 1-13-40 Baltimore, Md.

Tuskegee reports three lynchings in 1939, and the NAACP records five. As we have said every year we think these two agencies should compare notes before issuing annual statements.

Moreover, certainly Tuskegee lacks the organization and the means to report on mob violence which the NAACP, with its widespread branches, enjoys.

The main thing we want to point out is that three lynchings are three too many. Even one unpunished lynching is a horror from which civilized people should shrink.

As long as there is one outbreak of a mob, or a likelihood of one, we need a Federal antilynching law.

This Lynching Problem

Advertiser 1-5-40 Montgomery Ala.

Some time ago it was my pleasure and privilege to appear in a debate with Mr. Mark Ethridge, of The Courier-Journal, the debate being on the subject of the Federal anti-lynch law.

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Cobb County almost had mob violence. A few illiterate, pimply-faced youths, described by Editor Otis Brumby in his famed editorials as "You Yellow Rats," were halted by the appearance of the highway patrol who gave moral support to Smyrna's one peace officer.

Public indignation runs high in the face of a revolting crime. But rarely does it run so high in the caliber of men who take part in a mob, that it will cause them to risk their own lives to take that of another.

A determined sheriff who will kill rather than surrender his prisoner can cool off a mob quicker than any one factor. The mob invariably is a coward.

A Federal law would but change the method of killing. It would make it secret. It would cause lynchings to arise from even more inadequate causes than provoked of our past years. Bodies would be found in a ditch or field.

The record of 1939 may not be a real indication of the public attitude. One revolting crime one cowardly peace officer, can ruin the record in 1940. But every indication points toward the fact that human life and justice have higher standards of value—that education and not legislation is doing the job of eliminating lynching —Ralph McGill in The Atlanta Constitution.

Anniston, Ala., Star
December 26, 1939

Lynching Problem Less

Indications are more impressive in this waning year that the lynching problem, especially in the South, now has been met squarely and been solved. This year's report from Tuskegee Institute shows that only three persons were victims of mob violence since January 1. These three incidences were in Florida, 2, and Mississippi, 1.

Law enforcement officers have laid more stress than ever upon the protection of their prisoners when feeling is high. No longer do they take them to a local jail and trust that their numbers and the impressiveness of the law will make them secure. Now, throughout Alabama, at times when authorities feel that mob feeling might imperil the life of one in their custody they remove them to another bailiwick, usually an unannounced one, as a greater safeguard.

We find the Tuskegee report most favorable to Alabama. For a year at least we have gone without having to report the death of a prisoner.

The mob spirit appears not to have been assistant in the South's record for the year, however. The Tuskegee report says there were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in Southern states. In all instances, the report sets out, the persons were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Twenty-five persons, five white and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Two of the lynched men were Negroes and one white. The offenses charged were murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

Comparison of the record shows that the three this year was three less than the six of 1938; five less than the eight of 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than 20 for 1935. Only two of the men were taken from the law, one being taken from an officer outside the jail and another was taken from jail.

With the cultivation of greater intelligence among our peace officers, men who hold a respect for the law close to their hearts, the South will solve the lynch problem without outside help. Our only regret is that there were as many as three lynchings in the one

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Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
December 26, 1939

A Utopia For The Law

DR. PATTERSON of Tuskegee Institute informs us that during 1939 there have been three lynchings in America. Last year, there were six; in 1937 and 1936, there were eight each; in 1935, there were 20.

Of these three lynchings, two were negroes and the third was a white. Two occurred in Florida, the third in Mississippi. Two of the persons were taken from the hands of the law—one from a jail and the other from an officer outside of jail.

In Alabama, there have been no lynchings during 1939. There were no lynchings in Alabama during 1938. Our memory fails us beyond that point, but we feel safe in saying that there have been no more lynchings in Alabama than in California in five years. And yet the reformers continue to hound us. Those who write books about Alabama depict this state as a haven of lynchers; those who write plays about Alabama depict every white man as a wielder of the faggot. This is a state of more than two and a half million people. On the statute books of Alabama is a law against lynching. This law has not been violated a single time during the past year. It was not violated a single time during 1938. And yet there are those who insist that Alabama is incapable of enforcing its laws; there are those who say that a federal statute must be placed upon the books to take over a function which has belonged to the states for a century and a half. If every law in America were obeyed as well as Alabama has obeyed its anti-lynching laws, there would be no need for police forces, there would be no need for sheriffs' deputies, there would be no need for Mr. Hoover's men. If every law in America were obeyed as well as Alabama has obeyed its anti-lynching law, it would be time for the bones of Thomas More to stir in his grave; Utopia would become a fact and not a fancy.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
December 24, 1939

Only Three Lynchings.

There have been only three lynchings thus far this year, and the year is about gone, so that perhaps this will stand as the record for the year. That is three too many such outrages, and we say "only" three because it probably is the smallest number of mob murders to occur in any single year since lynching records have been kept. It is three less than the number six for 1938, five less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936, and seventeen less than the number twenty for 1935.

Not only have there been fewer lynchings this year, but there seem to have been fewer attempted crimes of the kind. According to Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Alabama, which compiles the annual records, there were eighteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of the instances reported were in Southern States, as were the successful attempts. In all instances, the persons were removed, or guards augmented, or other precautions taken.

A total number of twenty-five persons—five white men and twenty Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs. Of the persons lynched, two were negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were murder, one; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, one; altercation with man, one. Two of the lynchings occurred in Florida and one in Mississippi. If memory is not at fault, those two States have been among the leading offenders in this respect for some time.

Originally, the mob presumed to take the law into its own hands only to avenge assaults upon white women by Negroes. Even those crimes were not a defense for this sinister species of lawlessness. But it was not long before the mob began to mete out death for all sorts of crimes and misdemeanors, and to kill whites as well as blacks, women as well as men. It will be noted that of the three persons lynched this year, none was accused of rape.

It is regrettable that there have been three mob outrages in the South this year, and at the same time a matter for congratulation that the number is so few. Is it too much to hope the mob spirit has about died out and that within the next year or two it will disappear entirely? The improvement in the lynching record encourages the hope. It should determine he two States that are in disgrace to take the ternest stand against mob lawlessness, and the est of the States to keep their names clean.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tel
January 3, 1940

LYNCHINGS

Three lynchings were perpetrated in the United States during 1939, two of them in Florida, one in Mississippi. Two of the victims were negroes, the third a white man.

These three instances of blind fury add to a shameful record that has been accumulating against the southern states for too many years, but law-abiding citizens should find solace in the sweeping contrast between the 1939 total and the amazing total of 231 lynchings in 1892, when mob violence reached its most barbaric extreme.

The 99 per cent decrease is attributable to an intensive educational program conducted cooperatively by several agencies, one of the most significant of which is an association of southern white women, with headquarters in Atlanta, where the Commission on Interracial Cooperation also has its headquarters.

Raising of the general educational level of the south and an increase in the number of law enforcement agencies and auxiliary agencies have figured strongly in the laudable campaign against lynching.

Prominent white women representing clubs have kept in direct touch with law enforcement officers to insist upon swift action in instances of probable mob violence. The response has been good. Twenty-five men were saved from mobs last year. Twenty of them were negroes.

It is significant that neither of the two negroes lynched last year was charged with violating a white woman, which in other years was the most common inspiration for lynching.

Both of Florida's lynchings in 1939 occurred in April, the first on April 1, when a mob decided to do "justice" to Miles W. Brown of Panama City, who had been given a life sentence for the slaying of his former employer. The second occurred on April 29, near Daytona Beach, when Lee Snell, a negro taxi driver, was shot down for having run over and killed a 12-year-old white boy, who was riding a bicycle.

Mississippi's mob victim was Joe Rogers, a negro sawmill worker who had knocked his white foreman unconscious.

Since 1882, the number of recorded lynchings in the United States has reached 4,689, a sinister total depressing to every intelligent individual who understands that society must fight illiteracy and insist upon law and order.

6297

LYNCHINGS- 1939
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN-DEC. EDITORIALS

Greenwood, Miss. Commonwealth
December 28, 1939

LYNCHING SHOWS RECESSION

The continual efforts of the Southern states to suppress lynching is reflected in the further drop in the number of lynchings during the year 1939.

The Tuskegee Institute which has kept records of lynchings for several years reports that only three persons were lynched in the United States during the year 1939.

The record of only three lynchings is three less than the six lynchings which occurred in 1938; five less than the eight who were lynched in each of the years 1937 and 1936, and seventeen less than the twenty who were lynched in 1935.

Two of the lynched persons were taken from the hands of the law, one from the jail and the other from an officer outside of the jail.

There were eighteen reports of instances in which officers prevented lynchings, involving twenty-five persons, five of these were white men and twenty were negro men.

And of the three who were lynched two were negroes and one was white. Two of the lynchings occurred in Florida and one in Mississippi.

The 1938 record is a sufficient answer to the northern congressmen who are backing the so-called anti-lynching law. The record shows that officers are doing a good job in preventing lynching, and that lynching is not alone directed toward negroes.

No report is made on the number of gang killings in the northern cities, which is lynching, just as much as if the crime occured in any of the southern states.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
January 7, 1940

RECORD OF LYNCHINGS SHOW DECREASE

It is gratifying to learn that the number of lynchings for 1939 was less than in any year for the last five years. The number of lynchings for 1939 was only three and not one of them was for the usual crime—that of rape. These lynchings occurred in Florida and Mississippi, two in Florida and one in Mississippi. This record is compiled by the statistical department of Tuskegee Institute, and is absolutely reliable.

In 1925 there were twenty lynchings; in 1936, the number was reduced to eight; in 1937, the number did not change, but remained the same. However in 1938 the number was reduced to six and for last year, 1939, the number was only three.

In the past, the large number of lynchings was occasioned by the number of crimes of rape committed upon white women by negroes. Since this crime has shown such a decrease, the number of lynchings has shown a proportionate decrease. The three cases reported for last year were for crimes other than that of rape. Two of the victims were negroes and one was a white man.

The record, however, is wholesome and indicates increased conservatism on the part of the citizenship of the southern states, both white and colored, for which all law abiding citizens should be thankful.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
December 22, 1939

Lynchings Greatly Reduced

Reporting on lynchings committed during 1939, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, says that according to reports compiled in the department of records and research that there were three persons lynched in 1939, three less than the number six for the year 1938; five less than the number eight for each of the years of 1937 and 1936, and 17 less than the number 20 for the 1935.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in the southern states, and in all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 25 persons, five white men, and 20 negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, the report concludes, two were negroes and one was white. Two of the lynchings were in Florida and one was in Mississippi.

Thus the report reflects how the south is coping with lynchings, how established order is minimizing mob violence so that those accused of crimes may be judged by juries of their peers in the courts.

The law enforcement agencies of the south are functioning and most illuminatingly the report by the Tuskegee president reveals that the south is capable of handling the problem of mob action without the aid of a federal anti-lynch law.

The purpose of such a law, long projected in the congress, according to its authors, is to prevent lynchings, to eliminate mob violence and to offer protection to those accused of crimes.

This being true, the south is carrying out that purpose with its own laws and law enforcement officers, and without the aid, help or suggestions of federal authorities.

The south hates lynchings just as do the people of other sections, and the progress it has made indicates most forcefully that mob action will not be tolerated.

Thomasville, Ga., Press
December 29, 1939

The Lynching Myth

It is a favorite supposition among persons who condone lynching that such a crime is occasionally necessary "to protect southern womanhood." Although this myth is gradually disappearing, it is still prevalent enough to need continuing refutation. Each year statistics prove that offenses against southern women are not the causes of lynching, and the records for 1939 again verify this fact.

Only three persons were murdered by mobs during the last 12 months, two in Florida and one in Mississippi. Two of the persons lynched were negroes and one was white. In not a single case was rape the charge. The offenders were as follows: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1. Furthermore, two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from a jail and one from an officer outside of a jail.

It is encouraging to note that the south has greatly reduced its lynchings. There were three in 1939, six in 1938, eight in 1937 and 1936, and twenty in 1935. To made the record more impressive, in 18 cases during the past year officers prevented lynchings:

Only two steps are necessary to eliminate lynchings entirely. First, the public must learn that rape and physical assault are not the major causes for mob law. Second, public officials must continue to protect prisoners. When the south has learned that, it won't be necessary for any congressman to propose a federal anti-lynch law.

Cordele, Ga., Dispatch
January 2, 1940

DRASTIC DECLINE IN LYNCHINGS

ATLANTA, Jan. (AP)—The "lynch habit is being steadily pushed off the map," says an official of the commission on interracial cooperation which credited religious and civic agencies with aiding peace officers in reducing mob violence.

The commission's educational director, R. B. Eleazer, pointed to a drastic decline from the nation's peak of 231 lynchings in 1892 and added: "Of late, the habit has been localized more and more in the South."

Tuskegee Institute reported simultaneously with the commission statement Saturday that three persons died by mob violence in the United States in 1939—two in Florida and one in Mississippi. That was the smallest mob toll since records were started 57 years ago.

Tallahassee Fla Democrat
December 27, 1939

Point of Privilege

By JOHN KILGORE

Tuskegee Institute's record of lynchings for the year 1939 covers three cases, two in Florida and one in Mississippi. . . . The causes are given as: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in an automobile accident, 1; and altercation with man, 1. . . . The victims were listed as white, 1, and negro, 2.

These figures compare with past years like this: six in 1938; eight in 1937; eight in 1936, and 20 in 1935. . . . Two of the victims were taken from the hands of the law, one from jail and one from officers.

Accepting these figures at face value, it is clear that lynching is approaching the vanishing point. . . . From scores of lynchings at the turn of the century to a half dozen in each of recent years down to no more than three in 1939 is a remarkable decrease. . . . The report shows, too, that threatened lynchings were prevented by officers of the law in 18 cases and that 25 persons, five white and 20 negro, were thus saved from mob violence.

But we are unwilling to accept the report at face value. . . . As we have said before, lynching must be defined and factual data must accompany reports before the statistics can be credited.

The organization of southern women for the prevention of lynching called attention to some discrepancies in the last report of the Tuskegee institute on this subject. . . . It was pointed out that proof of some of the cases was not available.

At that time this column called attention to the fact that the Volusia county case, listed as a lynching, was an example of personal vengeance carried out by the brothers of an accident victim. . . . We did not and we cannot now accept such a case as a lynching. . . . Personal vengeance has never been so defined.

If lynching is to be defined as it has been described in the so-called anti-lynching bill, it would cover personal vengeance provided only that three or more persons were included in the "mob" and provided further that the victim be accused or suspected of a criminal act. . . . However, the so-called anti-lynching bills exempt from the definition any act of violence by gangsters or members of labor unions, so that it would be necessary to determine first, before the term could be employed or the assistance of federal officers claimed, that the "lynching" was carried out by a non-union or non-gangster mob.

Such a definition, we believe, is not only absurd but an insult to organized labor in that it associates gangsters and union labor together in the granting of a special privilege or monopoly right to take accused persons from the hands of officers and lynch them without fear of federal intervention. . . . Such a classification and exemption must be distasteful to organized labor and will, no doubt, cost the authors and supporters of the bill much more than they may gain in political strength from the bare-faced bid for votes in their own bailiwicks, not only from misguided negroes but also from others who may appreciate the careful separation of types of crime more common in the north from a type of crime which has been more common in the south.

The traditional meaning of the word lynching covers only such examples of violence as have the color of an extra-legal community action to punish crime and therefore excludes personal vengeance carried out by relatives and friends of injured persons in small numbers. We have no intention of questioning the sincerity of the Tuskegee statisticians. . . . But we insist that they tell us what they mean by "lynching."

Roanoke, Va. World News
December 26, 1939

Three Lynchings This Year

According to the report of Tuskegee Institute, only three persons were lynched during 1939. This is three less than the six lynched in 1938; five less than the number eight for the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were eighteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching, all in Southern States. In all instances, the accused persons were removed, or guards augmented, or other precautions taken. A total number of 25, five white men and twenty Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

According to the Tuskegee record of the persons lynched, two were Negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred, and the number in each are: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1.

The Tuskegee record is regarded as authoritative, for its definition of lynching does not include mere brawls. An essential of lynching is an attack on the law, an effort of inflamed private individuals to take vengeance or execute their conception of justice on accused persons without trial. Lynching is thus an attack on the State as well as on the individual.

It will be noted that of the three lynchings of 1939, none was an outgrowth of an attack on a woman. The thin excuse that lynching is necessary to protect Southern womanhood cannot be cited in any of these instances.

The fact is that lynching has disappeared from every State in which public opinion is definitely against mob violence and summary executions without due process of law. It will disappear from every State when State authorities set themselves resolutely to the punishment of those who commit mob murder or who attempt to take the law into their own hands.

The effort to enact a Federal anti-lynching bill is a bid for political support in certain cities of the North which have a large Negro population. While Federal investigation might result in a more relentless prosecution of those taking part in lynching mobs, it is by no means certain that such Federal pressure would make the States any more alert, or that, in fact, it would reduce the number of instances of mob violence.

Charleston S C Evening Post
January 5, 1940

LYNCHINGS IN 1939

According to statistics compiled at Tuskegee Institute, only three lynchings occurred in the United States during 1939 while 25 persons were saved from mob violence by officers of the law. Of these three lynchings, two took place in Florida and one in Mississippi and one of the Florida killings could hardly be called the action of a mob, having been perpetrated by two persons, both of whom were later tried and acquitted. But even granting the number to be three, this total indicates that the goal of the South for the elimination of this form of crime is near to realization following the marked reduction of lynchings in the past few years. A drop from twenty in 1935 to eight each in 1936 and 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939 stands for a growing strength and effectivenss in public sentiment against such unlawfulness.

Two of the 1939 victims were in the custody of law officers when taken away and slain. The Mississippi victim had never been arrested but was found bound and lifeless. It is plainly the duty of officers to defend persons they have under arrest against attacks by lynchers, and this is generally realized by them, as is demonstrated by the twenty-five cases last year in which persons in their charge threatened by lynchers were saved. For many years numerous reports have been had of officers who either by the proper display of firmness in doing their duty, or by prompt action in removing threatened persons under arrest from probable danger, contributed a significant share in the reduction of mob violence. In view of the record of 1939 in lynching prevention and in the marked reduction of this crime, it would be deplorable if steps were taken by Congress to impose upon the South and the country any anti-lynching legislation of the character contemplated. Such legislation would quickly undo the successful work now going on in the States to wipe out finally the crime of lynching.

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LYNCHINGS- 1939 JAN. - DEC.
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

NEWS AND COMMENT

Judge Lynch

1-4-40

ACCORDING to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, of Tuskegee Institute, and sent out by Pres. F. D. Patterson, there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each year of 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for 1935. One of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reported instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in Southern States. In all instances, the persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: Murden, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi 1.

THREE LYNCHINGS DURING YEAR

Argus 1-5-40

According to a report from the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, there were only three lynchings in the United States during the year of 1939.

This was quite a drop in the number of victims of mob rule as compared with immediate preceding years. The cause of this decrease may be attributed to the fight which is being waged by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for a federal anti-lynching law. This Association will renew its efforts to have such a law passed by the present Congress· it being generally believed that by so doing this will become a lynchless land.

This, of course, can only be accomplished by the strong support of all the people of the land, white and black, who believe in the principals of a true democracy and those who believe in right and justice.

Three Men Were Lynched In 1939

Age 1-6-40

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, on Sunday released the report of the Institute's Department of Records and Research on lynchings for the year 1939.

According to Dr. Patterson there were 3 persons lynched during the year; 3 less than in 1938; 5 less than in 1937 and 1938 and 17 less than the 20 who were lynched in 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law — one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 25 men, 20 Negro and 5 white, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1. Florida was responsible for two of the lynchings and Mississippi for the other.

Lynchings Show Sharp Decrease With Three in 1939

12-31-39

(The Associated Press)

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 30.—Only three lynchings, a sharp decrease from former years, have occurred in the United States in 1939, as far as the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute has determined.

Two occurred in Florida where a white man accused of murder was shot to death by members of his own race, and a negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi negro, killed, the report said, following an altercation with a white man.

There were 18 instances in which law-enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, "saved from the hands of mobs."

Twenty lynchings—a record—were reported in 1935. The institute listed eight each in 1936 and 1937. and six in 1938.

LYNCHINGS SHOW SHARP DECREASE TO THREE IN 1939

12-31-39

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Two occurred in Florida, where a white man accused of murder was shot to death by members of his own race, and a Negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi Negro, killed, the report said, following an altercation with a white man.

There were 18 instances in which law enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, saved from the hands of mobs. Twenty lynchings—a record in recent years—were reported in 1935. The institute listed eight each in 1936 and 1937, and six in 1938.

Bristol, Va.. News-Bulletin
November 29, 1939

DECREASE IN DIXIE LYNCHINGS CITED

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Nov. 29. (AP)—Lynchings in southern states have declined in recent years because they "became such bad advertising," Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive field secretary for the Inter-Racial Commission, believes.

"The south is going after big industry at the moment," he Atlanta woman told the Kentucky Inter-Racial Commission last night, "and a lawless, lynch-mob population isn't going to attract very much outside capital."

The advent of organized labor for both white and negro workers has created new problems for southern states, she said.

Earlier, in an interview, Mrs. Ames said she opposed federal anti-lynching laws because "first, none could be enforced; second, people would sit back and leave the problem up to the federal government and, third, such laws would endanger the lives of negroes in the rural areas."

St. Petersburg. Fla.. Times
December 23, 1939

Three Lynchings Reported in 1939

TUSKEGEE, Ala.— (AP) —Only three lynchings, a sharp decrease from former years, have occurred in the United States in 1939, as far as the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute has determined.

Two occurred in Florida, where a white man accused of murder was shot to death by members of his own race, and a negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi negro, killed, the report said, following an altercation with a white man.

There were 18 instances in which law enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, "saved from the hands of mobs."

Twenty lynchings —a record—were reported in 1935. The institute listed eight each in 1936 and 1937 and six in 1938.

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LYNCHINGS- 1939
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN- DEC.

Mooresville, N. C. Enterprise
January 4, 1940

Three Lynchings Reported For Year Of 1939

Editor Enterprise:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1939. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards agumented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were; murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows; Florida, 2; Mississippi 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson
Tuckasegee. Ala.

Pascagoula, Miss. Star
December 29, 1939

Only 3 Lynchings In U. S. During 1939

According to a report sent out by Tuskegee Institute, there were only three lynchings in the United States in 1939, three less than in 1938, five less than the number in each of the years 1937 and 1936, and 17 less than the year 1925.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in the southern states. Of the persons lynched two were negroes and one was white. Two of these lynchings occurred in Florida and one in Mississippi.

Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
January 5, 1940

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Only three persons were lynched in the United States in 1939, according to the Tuskegee records, two in Florida and one in Mississippi.

In 1938 the number was six, in 1937 and also in 1936 it was eight, and in 1935 it was twenty, so it is apparent that great gains in stamping out the murderous, unwholesome and unnecessary practice have been registered.

Of the three persons lynched in 1939 two were negroes and one was white. One was charged with murder, one with a fatal injury to a boy in an automobile accident and one with fighting.

Let's hope that 1940 among other things will bring a record free of misguided efforts to fight lawlessness with mass lawlessness.—The Greenville Piedmont.

Clanton, Ala., News
January 4, 1940

Only Three Lynchings In Nation In 1939

From Tuskegee Institute comes the following information regarding lynchings in the Nation during the year 1939: Dr. F. D Patterson, president states that he finds, according to the repotrs compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augumented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and20 Negro men were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1.

Valdosta, Ga., Weekly Times
December 23, 1939

Lynchings Show Marked Decrease

According to figures compiled by Tuskee Institute there were 3 persons lynched in the United States in 1939.

This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in Southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A ttotal number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred this year and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1.

Birmingham, Ala., Labor Advocate
December 30, 1939

Lynchings in 1939

Editor, The Labor Advocate:
Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1939. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson,
President.

Macon, Ga., News
January 1, 1940

Three Lynchings Reported in Year

Two Mob Attacks Occur in Florida, One in Mississippi

ATLANTA, Jan. 1 (AP) — The "lynch habit is being steadily pushed off the map," says an official of the commission on inter-racial co-operation which credited religious and civic agencies with aiding peace officers in reducing mob violence.

The commission's educational director, R. B. Eleazer, pointed to a drastic decline from the nation's peak of 231 lynchings in 1892 and added: "Of late, the habit has been localized more and more in the South."

Tuskegee Institute reported simultaneously with the commission statement Saturday that three persons died by mob violence in the United States in 1939—two in Florida and one in Mississippi. That was the smallest mob total since records were started 57 years ago.

Cullman, Ala., Tribune
December 28, 1939

Three Lynchings Occurred In U. S. In 1939

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, reports: "I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were three persons lynched in 1939. This is half the number for the year 1938; five less than the number for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and seventeen less than the number for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail."

"There were eighteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in Southern States. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of twenty-five persons, five white men and twenty negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs."

Of the persons lynched, two were negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were: murder, one; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, one; altercation with men, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, two; Mississippi, one.

6299

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
December 31, 1939

Lynchings Take Sharp Drop; Three Recorded In 1939

Tuskegee Institute Reports Violence In Florida, Mississippi

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — (AP) — Only three lynchings, a sharp decrease from former years, have occurred in the United States in 1939, as far as the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute has determined.

Two occurred in Florida, where a white man accused of murder was shot to death by members of his own race, and a Negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi Negro, killed, the report said, following an altercation with a white man.

There were 18 instances in which law enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, "saved from the hands of mobs."

Twenty lynchings—a record in recent years—were reported in 1935. The institute listed eight each in 1936 and 1937 and six in 1938.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Po
December 30, 1939

Savannah, Ga., Pre
December 30, 1939

Atlanta, Ga., Journal
December 31, 1939

Greensboro, N. C., Record
December 27, 1939

Greenville, S. C., Piedmont
January 1, 1940

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
December 31, 1939

Greenville, S. C., Piedmont
December 30, 1939

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
December 30, 1939

Springfield, Tenn. Herald
January 1, 1940

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 31, 1939

Cullman, Ala.
Democrat
Dec. 28, 1939

Lynchings In Year 1939

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1939. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southrn states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON
President Tuskegee Institute.

Greensboro, N. C., News
December 29, 1939

Arcadia, Fla., Arcadian
December 28, 1939

Albertville, Ala. Herald
December 29, 1939

Greensboro, Ala., Watchman
December 28, 1939

Lawrenceville, Ga., News-Herald
January 4, 1940

Evergreen, Ala., Courant
December 28, 1939

Beaufort, N. C., News
December 28, 1939

Huntsville, Ala., Times
December 31, 1939

Atmore, Ala., Advance
December 28, 1939

1939 Record Shows Only Three Lynchings

According to reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, there were three persons lynched in 1939. This is three less than the number six for the year 1938, 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less lynchings for the year 1935.

Two of the persons lynched this year were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside the jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in Southern states. In all instances the persons were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken, the report showed. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1. Two were in Florida and one in Mississippi.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
January 3, 1940

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
December 31, 1939

Crossville, Tenn. Chronicle
December 28, 1939

Henderson, N. C., Dispatch
December 27, 1939

Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
January 4, 1940

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
December 28, 1939

Carrollton, Ga., Times
December 28, 1939

Blakeley, Ga. News
December 28, 1939

Clarksville, Tenn., Star
December 30, 1939

Reidsville, N. C. Review
December 26, 1939

Covington, Tenn. Leader
December 28, 1939

Miller, Ga. News
January 4, 1940

Statesville, N. C. Daily
January 2, 1940

Lanett, Ala. Times
December 27, 1939

Oneida, Tenn. News
December 29, 1939

LYNCHINGS- 1939 JAN- DEC.
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

6300

South Pittsburg, Tenn., Hurtler
January 4, 1940

LYNCHINGS ARE FEWER IN 1939 THAN IN 1938

TWO IN FLORIDA AND ONE IN MISSISSIPPI

Figures Compiled By Head of Tuskegee Institute and Given the Press As An Annual News Dispatch.

A letter from F. D. Patterson, head of Tuskeegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., shows that there have been only three lynchings during the year 1939, three less than during the year 1938 when six lynchings were reported. These figures are obtained from the Department of Records and Research and it is pointed out that two of the persons lynched were negroes and one white. Two of these were perpetrated in Florida and one in Mississippi.

The letter follows:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1939. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were three persons lynched in 1939. This is three less than the number six for the year 1938; five less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and seventeen less than the number twenty for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

"There were eighteen reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of twenty-five persons, five white men and twenty Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, two were Negroes and one was white. The offenses charged were: murder, one; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, one; altercation with man, one.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, two; Mississippi, one."

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson, Pres.

Tampa, Fla Tribune
December 31, 1939

U. S. Had Only Three Lynchings During Year 1939

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 30.—(A.P.)—Only three lynchings, a sharp decrease from former years, have occurred in the United States in 1939, as far as the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute has determined.

Two occurred in Florida, where a white man accused of murder was shot to death by members of his own race, and a negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi negro, killed, the report said, following an altercation with a white man.

There were 18 instances in which law enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, "saved from the hands of mobs."

Twenty lynchings—a record—were reported in 1935. The institute listed eight each in 1936 and 1937, and six in 1938.

Sparta, Ga., Ishmaelite
December 28, 1939

GEORGIA HAD NO LYNCHINGS IN '39

According to a communication sent out by president F. D. Patterson, of Tuskeegee Institute, Tuskeege, Ala., there were only 3 persons lynched in the United States in 1939—1 white and 2 negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred were: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1. Georgia gets a clear sheet for 1939.

According to report, 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 negro men were saved from mobs by officers.

This seems like our people are making progress in this direction and no longer resort to mob rule.

Lumpkin, Ga., Stewart-Webster Jnl.
December 28, 1939

Three Lynching Occur In Nation in '39; None Recorded in Georgia

According to information supplied the Journal by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, there were three lynchings in the nation during 1939 and not a one recorded in Georgia. The following is the information supplied:

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were, murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1.

Ashland, Ala. Progress
January 4, 1940

Three Lynchings Reported In 1939

The Progress is in receipt of the following letter from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute concerning lynchings in the United States during the past year:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year, 1939. I find according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

"There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

"The states in which Lynchings occurred and the number ineach state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi. 1."

Montezuma, Ga., Georgian
December 28, 1939

3 LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN '39

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, of Tuskeegee Institute there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2;! Mississippi, 1.

Augusta, Ga. Herald
January 1, 1940

ONLY 3 LYNCHINGS DURING LAST YEAR

ATLANTA, Jan. 1—(AP)—The "lynch habit is being steadily pushed off the map", says an official of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation which credited religious and civic agencies with aiding peace officers in reducing mob violence.

The commission's educational director, R. B. Eleazer, pointed to a drastic decline from the nation's peak of 231 lynchings in 1892 and added "Of late, the habit has been localized more and more in the South."

Tuskegee Institute reported simultaneously with the commission statement Saturday that three persons died by mob violence in the United States in 1939—two in Florida and one in Mississippi. That was the smallest mob toll since records were started 57 years ago.

The Lynch Record

THE lynch record for 1939, as released by Tuskegee Institute, shows a marked decrease in mob murders during the past year over those of the previous twelve months. According to the Tuskegge record, only three lynchings were perpetrated during 1939, while officers of the law prevented eighteen such crimes through their diligence and courage during the same period, according to the same record. The low number, three, while it may appear as an encouraging sign to some, is not as encouraging as it appears on its face. When one considers that more than eighteen attempts at lynching were frustrated, it can be readily seen that the low number is due, not to an abatement of the lynch spirit so much as it was due to the activity of officials in preventing mobs to carry out their purpose.

Just at this time, when Congress is scheduled to take up the anti-lynching bill during its forthcoming session, there is no doubt but that this Tuskegee record will be made use of by opponents of the bill in an endeavor to show that there is no need of federal intervention in the mob situation in the South. The same old prophecy, that the South will eventually rid itself of the lynching evil, will be made by southerners who will point to the 1939 lynch record as an indication of the ultimate fullfilment of such a prophecy. And those who do not really know the situation as it actually is, will be led to sympathize with the opponents of the lynch bill in their contentions against the necessity for such an act.

Of course, the Tuskegee record is generally accepted as official. But that does not make it conclusively correct. Not so long ago, we remember, a statement was made through the press that in Mississippi alone twenty unreported lynchings had taken place. Possibly, therefore, the Tuskegee record of only three lynchings during the past year falls far short of the actual number of mob murders committed during the twelve month period just closed. But even if there were only three lynchings throughout the country during the year, every law-abiding and justice-loving citizen knows that even that small number was far too many. In a really civilized democracy, where everyone is supposed to receive justice under the law, there is no cause for a single instance of mob murder or the breakdown of the law's majesty.

CHECK BY TUSKEGEE REVEALS DECREASE

Two Were in Florida and One in Mississippi—One of Victims Was White.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 4.—Only three lynchings occurred in the United States during the calendar year 1939, according to reports compiled by Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research, and just released by President F. D. Patterson. All of the lynchings took place in the South, two in Florida and one in Mississippi. Two were colored men. The third was a white man. Two were forcibly taken from officers who had arrested them and had them in custody.

The total of three for 1939, compares with six in 1938, eight in 1937 and the same number in 1936, and twenty in 1935. Officers of the law prevented lynchings in 18 instances, all occurring in the South, saving a total of 25 human lives—20 Negroes and five whites.

Dr. Patterson made the official figures public without comment, as usual, but the press generally viewed them as a clear indication that lynching is rapidly and definitely on its way out. The Anniston Star stated editorially: "With the cultivation of greater intelligence among our peace officers, men who hold a respect for the law close to their hearts, the South will solve the lynch problem without outside help. Our only regret is that there were as many as three lynchings in the one year."

In a leading editorial, the Montgomery Advertiser said. "Ultimately the bloody stain left by moronic mobsters on the escutcheon of the South will be removed. . . . Speed the day."

Pittsburgh Pa.

LYNCHINGS- 1939 JAN- DEC/
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

6301

Summit, Miss. Sentinel
January 4, 1940

LYNCHING ON WANE

Figures For Year Show Only Three Mob Victims In 1939

Only three persons were lynched during the year 1939, according to figures made public by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, in his annual review based on data compiled by the Department of Records and Research of the school.

"This," the review says, "is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

"There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of the instances reported were in southern states. In all instances the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, 2 were negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

Starkville, Miss. News
December 29, 1939

1939 LYNCHINGS IN SOUTH REPORTED

Tuskegee Institute Shows 2 Two In Florida, One In Mississippi

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, that there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1939;; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936 ; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from and officer of the law ouside of jail. .

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances the persons removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1.

Lawrenceburg, Tenn., News
January 4, 1940

Lynching Declines In United States

Only three lynchings occurred in the United States in 1939, a decrease of three from 1938, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, disclosed in a letter written to newspapers in December. Florida had two and Mississippi one. Two were negroes and one was white.

Eight of this type crime occurred in each of the years 1937 and 1936. Twenty men fell victim in 1935.

Two of this year's victims were taken from the hands of the law, one from a jail, the other from an officer outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers prevented lynchings. All of these reports occurred in southern states. In each instance, the prisoner was removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, five white men and 20 negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs. Of those lynched, the offenses charged were: murder, one; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, one; altercation with man, one.

Wadesboro, N. C., Intelligencer
January 4, 1940

LYNCHINGS DECREASE.

Tuskegee Institute Reports Only Three Mob Slayings in 1939.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 30. — Only three lynchings, a sharp decrease from former years, have occurred in the United States in 1939, as far as the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute has determined.

Two occurred in Florida, where a white man accused of murder was shot to death by members of his own race, and a negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi negro, killed, the report said, after an altercation with a white man.

There were 18 instances in which law enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, "saved from the hands of mobs."

Twenty lynchings — a record in recent years — were reported in 1935. The Institute listed eight each in 193 and 1937, and six in 1938.

Taylorsville, N. C., Times
January 4, 1940

THREE LYNCHINGS SMALLEST FOR ANY YEAR SINCE 1882

Atlanta, Jan. 2.—Religious and civic agencies, together with vigilant peace officers, proved effective in reducing the nation's toll from mob violence in 1939, the commission on interracial cooperation reported today.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission, whose members united to bring about a better understanding between the races, asserted that the "lynch habit" in the United States "is being steadily pushed off the map."

The records of three lynchings in 1939 as reported by Tuskegee institute, Eleazer decalred, represented the smallest number for any year since 1882, when lynchings were first tabulated, and compared with the peak of 231 mob deaths in 1892.

Lake City, S. C., News
January 4, 1940

1939 Lynch Record

According to the reports compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee institute, there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white and 20 Negro, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi. 1.

Kingstree, S. C., Record
January 4, 1940

1939 Lynch Record

According to the reports compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee institute, there were 3 persons lynched in 1939. This is 3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938; 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than the number 20 for the year 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white and 20 Negro, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were: murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 2; Mississippi. 1.

Morganton, N. C., News-Herald
January 9, 1940

LYNCHINGS DECREASE FROM FORMER YEARS

Tuskegee, Ala. — Only three lynchings, a sharp decrease from former years, have occurred in the United States in 1939, as far as the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute has determined.

Two occurred in Florida, where a white man accused of murder of his own race, and a negro charged with the death of a white youth in an automobile accident was taken from officers and slain.

The third lynching listed on Tuskegee records was that of a Mississippi negro, killed, the report said, following an altercation with a white man.

There were 18 instances in which law enforcement officers were credited with preventing lynchings, with 25 persons, including five white, "saved from the hands of mobs."

Twenty lynchings — a record in recent years — were reported in 1935. The institute listed eight each in 1936 and 1937, and six in 1938.

Mobile, Ala. Press
January 10, 1940

Editorial Exp

NEW LOW IN LYNCHINGS

(Christian Science Monitor)

End-of-the-year records reveal that there were only three lynchings in the United States during 1939. While that was three too many, it was the lowest number on record. Annual reports compiled by the commission on interracial co-operation in Atlanta and Tuskegee Institute in Alabama disclose that the number has dropped steadily decade by decade from the peak of 231 in 1892. Of the persons lynched last year, two were negroes and one was white.

It is profoundly gratifying to contemplate evidence of the passing of lynch law or, as it should more accurately be termed, lynch lawlessness. The 4,689 recorded lynchings in the United States since 1882—they have occurred in the North as well as the South—have been a dark blot on the national life. While the expansion of law enforcement agencies in recent years has been a major contributing factor in reducing mob violence, much credit is ascribed by the commission "to religious and civic agencies which have crusaded against it." This has brought the force of a more enlightened public opinion to bear. All Americans will hope that even the all-time low of three in 1939 will be beaten by a clean slate in 1940.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
December 31, 1939

Mob Violence Declines in '39

Three Lynchings, Fewest Since 1882, Reported by Interracial Body

Atlanta, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Religious and civic agencies, together with vigilant peace officers, proved effective in reducing the nation's toll from mob violence in 1939, the Commission on Interracial Co-operation reported today.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission, whose membership includes educators and civic leaders united to bring about a better understanding between the races, asserted that the "lynch habit" in the United States "is being steadily pushed off the map."

The record of three lynchings in 1939, as reported by Tuskegee Institute, Eleazer declared, represented the smallest number of any year since 1882, when lynchings were first tabulated, and compared with the peak of 231 mob deaths in 1892.

West Point, Ga. News
December 28, 1939

Three Lynchings During 1939 In U. S. A.

Three persons were lynched in the United States during 1939, according to the report recently issued by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. This number was three less than that for 1938; 17 less than that for 1935. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law — one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside the jail. The remainder of the report follows.

"There were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, 5 white men and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, 2 were Negroes and 1 was white. The offenses charged were. murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows. Florida, 2; Mississippi, 1."

Centerville, Tenn., News-Herald
January 11, 1940

Lynching Declines In United States

Only three lynchings occurred in the United States in 1939, a decrease of three from 1938, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, disclosed in a letter written to newspapers in December. Florida had two and Mississippi one. Two were negroes and one was white.

Eight of this type crime occurred in each of the years 1937 and 1936. Twenty men fell victim in 1935.

Two of this year's victims were taken from the hands of the law, one from a jail, the other from an officer outside of jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers prevented lynchings. All of these reports occurred in southern states. In each instance, the prisoner was removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, five white men and 20 negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs. Of those lynched, the offenses charged were: murder, one; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, one: altercation with man, one.

Milledgeville, Ga., Recorder
January 4, 1940

ONLY 3 LYNCHINGS IN 1939

Atlanta, Jan. 1—(AP)—The "lynch habit is being steadily pushed off the map," says an official of the commissions on interracial cooperation which credited religious and civic agencies with aiding peace officers in reducing mob violence.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Herald
January 2, 1940

284

Three Persons Lynched In The U. S. During 1939

According to the records compiled in the U. S. Department of Records and Research, there were three persons lynched in 1939. This is three less than in 1938; five less for each of the years 1937 and 1936. Two of the persons lynched were taken from the hands of the law—one from the jail and the other from an officer of the law outside the jail.

There were 18 reports of instances in which officers prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in southern states. In all instances, the persons were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total number of 25 persons, five white and twenty colored, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, two were negroes and one was a white man. The offences charged were: murder, fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, and altrcation with man.

There was no lynching in Georgia during 1939. Florida, two; Mississippi one.

LYNCHINGS- 1939 JAN- DEC.
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

6141

Tuskegee Gives Out 1938 Lynch Record; Six Killed

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Jan. 5—(ANP)—According to records compiled in t Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were six pe sons lynched in 1938. This is two less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 an 1936; and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in hands of the law; the bodies of two of the victims were burned.

There were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in northern states and 39 in southern states. In 41 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons, three white men, 49 Negro men, and one Negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. Of the six persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged; rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1. Louisiana, 1; and Mississippi, 3.

1-7-39

The South And Lynching

According to information released by the Research Department at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, six persons were murdered by lynch mobs in the United States in 1938. All of the victims were Negroes The report also shows that fifty-three other persons, three of whom were white and fifty Negroes were saved from death at the hands of lynchers during 1938 as result of peace officers enforcing the law. Lynching is on a decline as indicated by the Tuskegee report. The number of lynchings in 1938 were two less than the number during the two previous years, and fourteen less than the record of 1935.

The desire on the part of Southern states to show that lynching can be controlled by individual states in order to block the passage of the Federal Anti-lynching Bill apparently is the cause of the low lynching rate of 1938. The undesirable publicity given the South and the courageous fight waged by the religious element and white women also played its part in the decrease of lynching.

As the 76th session of the United States Congress swings into its second week of meeting, all law-abiding citizens should be interested in the passage of a Federal Anti-lynching bill. We feel that there is need for such a law in order to give citizens the fullest protection of their citizenship rights and the due process of law as prescribed by the constitution. We sincerely hope that the present session of Congress will pass upon this measure when brought up and enact it ints law. Let us stand by in all parts of the nation, those of us who are opposed to the barbarious crime of lynching, and urge our representatives in Congress and petition them to vote for the passage of the Anti-lynching Bill when it comes up for consideration. We hope to see the day come when the records of the Research Department at Tuskegee will show that no persons were lynched. We hope that such will be their report at the end of 1939.

Plaindealer

1-13-39

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE GIVES OUT 1938 LYNCH RECORD: 6 KILLED

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Jan. 5 — (ANP) — According to records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were six persons lynched in 1938. This is two less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hands of the raw; the bodies of two of the victims were burned.

There were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern states and 39 in Southern states. In 41 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons, tnree white men, 49 Negro men, and one Negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. Of the six persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged: rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Louisiana, 1; and Mississippi.. 3.

6141

JUDGE LYNCH

ACCORDING to information sent out by President F D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, from the Department of Records and Research of the Institution there were six persons lynched in 1938. This is tw less than the number eight for each of the years of 193 and 1936; and fourteen less than the number twenty fo 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hand of the law; the bodies of two of the victims were burned

1-5-39

The reports further states that there were forty-tw instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these were in Northern states and thirty-nine in Southern states. Forty-nine of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented o other precautions taken. In the other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of fifty-three persons, three white men, forty nine Negro men, one Negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs

Of the six persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1· Louisiana, 1; and Mississippi, 3.

Lynching Toll Reaches Low Ebb During 1938 Records At Tuskegee Inst., Show

Black Dispatch

Thirty-Nine Southern Officers Thwart Attempts at Mob Murder

All Victims Negroes

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—(ANP)—According to records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, that there were six persons lynched in 1938. This is two less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and fourteen less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hands of the law; he bodies of two of the victims were burned.

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1-7-39

Oklahoma City, Okla.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Louisiana, 1, and Mississippi, 3.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN- DEC.

6117

ROME GA NEWS TRIBUNE
TUESDAY JANUARY 3 1939

THE REDUCTION IN LYNCHINGS

ON THE eve of the assembling of the Congress and the promised renewal of the fight to bring about the adoption of the so-called "anti-lynch bill," an official report comes from Tuskegee Institute announcing that only six lynchings occurred in 1938, as compared to eight in 1937 and 1936.

Here is a 25 per cent reduction in the form of crime against which the anti-lynch bill ostensibly is aimed, and it probably constitutes the largest reduction in lawlessness to be found anywhere in the country.

It is a record that well may be viewed with envy by the opponents of kidnaping, gang killings, rioting and the like, outbreaks of which are more numerous outside of the South than within the South.

The figures prove the utter uselessness of the proposed legislation except as a political proposition, urged by certain Northern politicians in the hope that it will win for them the support of negro voters in their districts.

Nor is the selfish political factor the only element that condemns the proposal. It has been declared unconstitutional by some of the ablest members of the Congress, constituting as it does a direct and flagrant violation of the principle of state rights. It would be just as logical for the Federal government to undertake the punishment of traffic violators in Southern communities as to take charge of the prosecution of alleged lynchers. It is made doubly dangerous by reason of the fact that once such unconstitutional and unwarranted invasions are authorized there is no telling where the evil may end.

The South is handling the lynching problem with far greater effectiveness than other major crimes are being handled in other sections and, barring political selfishness, there is no excuse whatever for keeping the pending proposal alive.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
January 3, 1939

THE REDUCTION IN LYNCHINGS

ON the eve of the assembling of the Congress and the promised renewal of the fight to bring about the adoption of the so-called "anti-lynch bill," an official report comes from Tuskegee Institute announcing that only six lynchings occurred in 1938, as compared to eight in 1937 and 1936.

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Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
January 5, 1939

THAT LYNCHING BUSINESS

Lynchings are not in order at any time, and yet there are reasons for them, not excuses, however. From Tuskegee Institute, a negro school located in Alabama, comes a yearly report on the matter. So the past year is no exception. The report says that in 1938 there were 6 lynchings, two less than the number in each of the years 1937 and 1936, which was 8 each. The report further says that the six lynchings was 14 less than in the year 1935. None of the six victims of lynchings were in the hands of the law.

The following is a continuation of the report:

There were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 3 of these were in Northern states and 39 in Southern states. In 41 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other instance, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons, 3 white men, 49 negro men, and 1 negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 6 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to a woman, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Louisiana, 1; and Mississippi, 3.

Certainly the report shows a continued improvement in the matter of lynchings. It proves that the laws are sufficient and public sentiment is strong against lynchings. This should have considerable weight with the fire-eaters who want to enact anti-lynching laws, directed primarily at the South, but it seems not to have that effect, for it is already intimated that the infamous anti-lynching bills, both by Democrats and one a Negro Democrat, are to be brought up in the next Congress.

While all law-abiding people condemn lynchings they want to be let alone by mischief makers and racial agitators.

SPARTANBURG S C HERALD
THUR. DEC. 29 1938

Lynchings in 1938

The annual report of Tuskegee Institute relating to lynchings in 1938 is both encouraging and discouraging. It is displeasing to all advocates of the observation of law and order in the South to know that six persons were lynched during the year ending Dec. 24, and that all these violations of law occurred in the southern states, as follows: Florida, 1; Louisiana, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 3. All the victims were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Criminal assault, 1; insulting remarks to women, 1; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; murder, 3.

We hold that lynching is a form of murder. In the six cases of 1938 proper verdicts would doubtless have been returned by juries had the cases been submitted by legal indictments. But no jury would have condemned the man to death who was charged with failure to pay a funeral bill. Nor would a jury of southern men have sent a man to his death for making insulting remarks to a woman.

The three men lynched upon charges of murder may or may not have been guilty of the crime. They may not even have been indicted by grand juries, yet they were seized and executed by mobs under the impulse of excitement anger and hatred. Time was when the cri[illegible] for which lynching was justified was that of criminal assault upon a woman. Of the six lynchings of 1938, only one victim of the mobs was charged with that crime.

All the foregoing facts are discouraging to the law-abiding people of the South. But there are others that are encouraging. During the year 53 persons escaped lynching because officers of the law prevented. Three of these cases were in northern states and 39 of them were in the South. Three of those who thus escaped the vengeance of mobs were white, one was a Negro woman and 49 were Negro men. It is gratifying to know that in so many cases officers of the law have represented the best sentiment of the South.

If our friends of the North knew the sentiment of the southern people relating to lynching and would consider the great progress made in the last decade to prevent this crime, perhaps they would be more patient and would be willing to let the southern people finish the task of abolishing the crime of lynching which they have undertaken. We submit to the people of other sections, who do not understand, the record of the southern states since the beginning of the century in their effort to prevent a crime that is as revolting to their citizens as it is to those of the North, the East or the West.

GADSDEN ALA. TIMES
JAN. 3, 1939

THE REDUCTION IN LYNCHINGS

ON the eve of the assembling of the Congress and the promised renewal of the fight to bring about the adoption of the so-called "anti-lynch bill," an official report comes from Tuskegee Institute announcing that only six lynchings occurred in 1938, ~~as compared to eight in 1937 and~~ 1936.

Here is a 25 per cent reduction in the form of crime agains which the anti-lynch bill ostensibly is aimed, and it probabl constitutes the largest reduction in lawlessness to be founc anywhere in the country.

It is a record that well may be viewed with envy by the opponents of kidnaping, gang killings, rioting and the like, outbreaks of which are more numerous outside of the South thar within the South.

The figures prove the utter uselessness of the proposed legislation except as a political proposition, urged by certain Northern politicians in the hope that it will win for them the support of negro voters in their districts.

Nor is the selfish political factor the only element that condemns the proposal. It has been declared unconstitutional by some of the ablest members of the Congress, constituting as it does a direct and flagrant violation of the principle of state rights. It would be just as logical for the federal government to undertake the punishment of traffic violators in Southern communities as to take charge of the prosecution of alleged lynchers. It is made doubly dangerous by reason of the fact that once such unconstitutional and unwarranted invasions are authorized there is on telling where the evil may end.

The South is handling the lynching problem with far greater effectiveness than other major crimes are being handled in other sections and, barring political selfishness, there is no excuse whatever for keeping the pending proposal alive.

ASHEVILLE N C TIMES
THUR. DEC. 29 1938

Mobs Yielding To Law

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE'S report on lynchings for the yeai 1938 is a convincing argument against the contentions of those, North and South, who will soon be urging again the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

The damaging admission must, of course, be made that even six lynchings this year prove that the problem is not solved Yet over against that deplorable record, three lynched in Mississippi, one each in Florida, Georgia and Louisiana, the Tuskegee report reveals once more the decline of lawless mob killing, the increase of lawfulness demonstrated in the larger effectiveness of the officers of the law in preventing mob action.

Not one of the six persons lynched was taken from the hands of the law. Furthermore: there were 42 instances in which the law acted vigorously and successfully, once by armed force, to prevent lynchings. Thirty-nine of these cases occurred in the South. And thus 53 persons—three white men, 49 Negro men and one Negro woman, were saved from death at the hands of mobsmen.

Only the absolute breakdown of the structure of law and order would justify the Federal Government, by act of Congress, in taking over for all practical purposes the state administration of the criminal law with regard to lynchings. This ecord compiled at Tuskegee makes evident beyond any doubt hat law and order in the states are not collapsing but on the other hand are waxing stronger, slowly it may be, but nevertheless surely and unmistakably.

SPARTANBURG S C JOUR & SPARTAN
THUR. DEC. 29 1938

Lynching Record of 1938

The six persons lynched in the United States during during the year represented two less than the records for 1936 and 1937—but they were exactly two too nany. Each of the lynchings reported for the year nding occurred in the South, and in each instance he mob's victim was a negro. The offenses charged vere: rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1. The ollowing states shared in the ill-favored notoriety of being the scene of a session of "judge lynch's" court; Mississippi, 3; with Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana, one each. These statistics were compiled by the research division of the Tuskegee (Ala.) institute.

The records show there were ~~42 instances during~~ the year in which officers prevented lynchings—three of these in northern states and 39 in southern states. It seems difficult indeed for the nation at large to keep a clean slate for a twelve-month period as regards lynching, and while the 1938 record shows all the lynchings happening in the South, this infamous attack on law and authority is not confined to this section. The latest reports give the baiters of the South and over-zealous reformers plenty of stimulus to agitate for passage of an anti-lynching law Such a bill is predicted to come up at the next congress which convenes in January. Some of the ablest most sincere opponents of lynching throughout th states oppose any such law as an invasion of a sovereign state's rights and authority. Certainly it woul be as difficult to find defenders of lynch law in thi section as in any other. But federal laws enacted o this score, as informed people are well aware, are bu political gestures, lacking a foundation of honest and sincerity.

WILMINGTON N C STAR
THUR. DEC. 29 1938

LYNCHINGS DECLINE

Lynchings in 1938 declined by two according to the annual review compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, of Tuskegee, Ala. The year's ~~total was six.~~

The report adds that lynchings were prevented by vigilant officers in 42 instances, 39 of which were in southern states. Hali those executed by mob violence met their fate in Mississippi. Florida, Georgia and Louisiana divided the remaining three.

VALDOSTA GA TIMES
THUR. DEC. 29 1938 (Wkly)

REDUCTION IN LYNCHINGS

Latest available figures on the number of lynchings in the United States for the year indicate that 1938 will see a reduction n the number of these unfortunate happenings. To date, according to the records at the Tuskegee Institute, there were 6 persons lynched in the United States this year. This is 2 less than in the years 193 and 1937, when there were 8, and 14 les ~~than the 20 that were lynched in 1935.~~

None of the victims were in the hand of the law at the time the lynchings occurred.

The states in which lynchings occurred this year were: one each in Florida, Georgia and Louisiana and 3 in Mississippi. Thus it is seen that all of the lynchings occurred in the South.

In line with these figures it is also interesting to note that there were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these instances are reported from Northern states and 39 in Southern states. In 41 of the instances of prevention of violence, the prisoners were removed or the guards were augmented or other precautions taken. In the other instance, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons, 3 white men, 49 negro men and 1 negro woman, were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

It is further shown that of the 6 who were lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; murder 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to women, 1.

These figures, while they contain some cause for shame to the South, show that there has been a gradual and continuous reduction in the number who meet deaths at the hands of lawless mobs. True the lynchings that are reported all took place in the South, but the six who were so killed are far less in number than those who are killed in other parts of the nation in acts of violence and in defiance of the law.

The figures are a definite answer to the charge that there is need for some form of federal legislation to prevent lynching. So long as the law abiding citizens of the South are able to reduce the number of persons who are lynched and so long as such crimes of violence are much greater in other sections, although they do not go under the name of lynchings, there can be no justification for anti-lynching legislation by Congress.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN-DEC.

6119

ROCK HILL S C HERALD
FRIDAY DEC. 30 1938

LYNCHINGS IN 1938

Spartanburg Herald

The annual report of Tuskegee Institute relating t lynchings in 1938 is both encouraging and discouraging. It is displeasing to all advocates of the observation of law and order in the South to know tha six persons were lynched during the year ending December 24, and that all these violations of law occurred in the southern states, as follows: Florida, Louisiana, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 3. All the vict were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Crim assault, 1; insulting remarks to women, 1; failur complete payment on funeral bill, 1; murder, 3.

We hold that lynching is a form of murder. [illegible] six cases of 1938 proper verdicts would doubtless have been returned by juries had the cases been submitted by legal indictments. But no jury would have condemned the man to death who was charged with failure to pay a funeral bill. Nor would a jury of southern men have sent a man to his death for making insulting remarks to a woman.

The three men lynched upon charges of murder may or may not have been guilty of the crime. They may not even have been indicted by grand juries yet they were seized and executed by mobs under the impulse of excitement, anger and hatred. Time wa when the crime for which lynching was justified wa that of criminal assault upon a woman. Of the si lynchings of 1938, only one victim of the mobs was charged with that crime.

JERSEY CITY N J JOURNAL
THURSDAY JANUARY 5 1939

LYNCHING ON DECLINE

Lynchings for 1938 have hit a new low, according to figures recently released by the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama. Six met death las year via the lynching route. All were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on a funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

The total for 1938 is two less than in 1937 and 1936, and 14 less than in 1935. The institute reveals there were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of this number three were in northern states and 39 in southern states. In 41 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other case armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons, 3 white men, 49 Negro men and 1 Negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

The record is still bad. It is something to think about at the same time that we condemn savagery elsewhere.

Lumberton, N. C. Robersonian
January 2, 1939

LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1938

North Carolina is free from the dark blot of a lynching during the year now closed. The number of persons lynched in the entire United States was smaller than in any other recent year, and the [illegible]mber of instances in which of-[illegible]s of the law prevented mob [illegible]e was unusually large, 42 [illegible]ed victims being thus saved. [illegible] these, 39 were in Southern states.

President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee institute has issued the following statement from records kept at Tuskegee:

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute, that there were 6 persons lynched in 1938. This is 2 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hands of the law; the bodies of two of the victims were burned.

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Of the 6 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; murder, 8; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Louisiana, 1; Mississippi, 3.

Birmingham. Ala. Post
January 2, 1939

NO LYNCHINGS IN STATE IN 1938

U. S. Has Only Six, Compared With Eight Last Year, 20 In 1935

Alabama went through 1938 without a lynching, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported today. In 1937 there was one lynching in the state.

Six persons were lynched in the United States in 1938, all of them in the South, as against eight in 1937, eight in 1936 and 20 in 1935.

None of the six persons lynched in 1938 was in the custody of the law. The bodies of two were burned.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state in 1938 were: Florida, one; Georgia one; Louisiana, one, and Mississippi three.

Dr. Patterson's report showed there were 42 instances in which officers prevented lynchings, three in Northern states and 39 in Southern states. In 41 of the 42 instances, the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken.

In the other instance, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons—three white men, 49 Negro men and one Negro woman—thus were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the six persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were rape, one; murder, three; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, one; insulting remarks to woman, one.

SALISBURY N C POST
WED. DEC. 28 1938

Six Lynchings During 1938

A report on lynchings taking place in the United States during the current year issued by Tuskegee Institute reveals that there were six persons lynched in 1938. This is two less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hands of the law; the bodies of two of the victims were burned.

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Of the six persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Louisiana, 1, and Mississippi, 3.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. POST
DEC. 31, 1938

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TALLAHASSEE FLA DEMOCRAT
WED. DEC. 28 1938

Lynching in U. S. Drops Off in '38

TUSKEGEE, Ala—With only six lynchings during 1938 in the United States, violent death through mob action dropped to its lowest point in many years, President F D Patterson of Tuskegee Institute announced.

Eight persons were lynched in 1936 and 1937, while 20 died at the hands of mobs in 1935.

In 42 instances, law officers prevented lynchings. Three mobs were foiled in northern states, and 39 in southern states. In 41 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions were taken. The other time, armed force was used to repeal the would-be lynchers.

"A total of 53 persons, three white men, 49 negro men, and a negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs," Patterson said.

All of the six persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

Mississippi led with three lynchings during the year. Florida Georgia and Louisiana had one each.

Fairhope, Ala., Courier
December 29, 1938

There were 6 persons lynched in 1938. This is 2 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hands of the law; the bodies of two of the victims were burned.

Washington, D. C. Post
December 31, 1938

Six Lynchings In 1938

The lynching record for 1938 remain abominable only because four Southern States failed to maintain the law-enforcement standards which prevailed during the first part of the year, when the Federal anti-lynching bill was under discussion in the Senate. For several aspects of the report made public by Tuskegee Institute show real progress toward complete elimination of this barbarous type of crime.

Tuskegee finds that six persons were lynched in 1938, compared with eight in each of the years, 1936 and 1937, and 20 in 1935. Three of these mob murders occurred in Mississippi while Florida, Georgia and Louisiana each have one lynching to their discredit. In other words, the problem of wiping out this form of degeneracy appears now to be concentrated in a relatively small territory. If Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and Florida can be made to feel the shame which this stigma attaches to their law-enforcement systems, an end to all lynchings may soon be anticipated.

Even more encouraging than the decline in the total number of these murders are the preventive measures that were taken. Not one of the persons lynched was snatched from the hands of law-enforcement officers. Moreover, Tuskegee reports that 53 persons, 50 of them Negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs by the precautionary efforts of law-enforcement authorities. In most of these instances prisoners were removed to places of safety or guards were augmented. One State properly called upon its armed forces to thwart the murderous intentions of a mob.

This heartening part of the record plus the fact that no lynching occurred during the first part of the year, indicates that the States are fully capable of preventing such outrages where there is the will to do so. It is the cultivation of that will on which all decent citizen should now concentrate their efforts.

There is little likelihood that the constitutionally objectionable Federal anti-lynching bill will be revived if th South continues to improve its record Nevertheless, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana should be made to realize that it is their inexcusable laxity which keeps the threat of Federal intervention alive. Other Southern States whose skirts are now clear have special reason to use their influence against barbarity which has become a menace to fundamental States' rights as well as to law and order.

KANSAS CITY, MO., TIMES
DEC. 31, 1938 13

Mob Violence Disappearing.

Those who are inclined to despair over the progress of civilization may get a measure of comfort from the decline of an evil that has been a reproach to America, at home and abroad. To American protests against persecution in Germany and elsewhere there has been the retort that we lynch people over there, swing them up, riddle them with bullets or burn them.

In these charges the important distinction is not made that such disgraceful acts have been the work of ignorant, lawless mobs, not the work of the law or government itself, and that they are overwhelmingly condemned by public sentiment. Nor is the distinction made that the evil steadily has subsided in America.

Year after year, we have been able to cite the gradual disappearance of mob violence. For 1938, a Tuskegee Institute department reports, there have been but six lynchings in the whole country. That is a new low record. There were eight last year, the equal of the smallest number previously recorded with irregularly declining numbers for more than a generation since the high figure of 231 for 1892.

CHARLOTTE N C NEWS
FRIDAY DEC. 30 1938

The Greater Danger

As far as lynching goes, the Negro was somewhat safer in Dixie this year than he has been for a long time. The hope for a completely clear record for 1938, engendered by the fact that there had been no lynching in the year up until July 1, went aglimmering in the second half of the year. Up until Dec. 24, the score stood at six victims, according to the figures of the Tuskegee Institute, as against eight in each of the years 1937 and 1936, and as against twenty in 1935.

But if the Negro was safer as far as lynching goes, he wasn't, if the figures for Charlotte are typical, even as safe against being murdered by other Negroes. Last year this city had 27 murders, all the victims and all the killers being Negroes. This year, it has already had 30. One victim was white, but for the rest, the victims and the triggermen were blacks.

All of which prompts us to conclude that what the black man in Dixie seems to need is not a Federal law to save him from being lynched — the South itself is doing better and better about that — but one to save him from being murdered by other Negroes.

LA FOLLETTE, TENN. PRESS
JAN. 3, 1939 13

Lynchings In 1938 Lower Than Past year

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute released the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1938. I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were 6 persons lynched in 1938. This is 2 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936; and 14 less than the number 20 for 1935. No one of the persons lynched was in the hands of the law; the bodies of two of the victims were burned.

There, were 42 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 3 of these were in Northern states and 39 in Southern states. In 41 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other instance, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 53 persons, 3 white men, 49 Negro men, and 1 Negro woman, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 6 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; murder, 3; failure to complete payment on funeral bill, 1; insulting remarks to woman, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Florida, 1 Georgia, 1 Louisiana, 1; and Mississippi, 3.

TYLER, TEX. COURIER-TIMES
NOV. 23, 1938 D5

Incentive For Antilynchers

Another lynching has been added to the South's crime record for the year.

Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, which keeps a boxscore on such matters, says the year's total is six, following hanging of a Mississippi negro accused of criminal assault against a white woman.

He Had a Narrow Squeak

The total is high, since at least two of the cases recorded have involved gun battles in which the quarry of an officers' posse was slain resisting arrest.

But there are no extenuating circumstances in the others. Mobs of men have taken the law into their own hands—the very law that would have meted satisfactory justice had it been permitted to function.

Further, these mobs have given more ammunition to fomenters of racial strife and vote-hungry politicians who, as sure as sunrise, will launch another antilynching bill in the next Congress.

Senators Wagner of New York and Van Nuys of Indiana both won re-election this month—the latter by the skin of his teeth These solons were co-authors of the ill-fated antilynching measure last session and counted heavily on negro votes to get them back to Washington.

Rockingham, N C Post-Dispatch
December 29, 1938

LYNCHINGS. In 1938 there were only 6 persons lynched in the United States, as compared with 8 in 1937, 8 in 1936 and 20 in 1935. These six this year were in Florida 1, Georgia 1 Lousiana 1, Mississippi 3.

Montgomery Ala. Advertiser
December 28, 1939

THE DECLINE OF LYNCHING

Apparently American morons are losin their taste for lynching bees. Tuskegee Institute, the faithful keeper of records on the progress of mob pilgrims, reports that i the year just ending we have had but thre lynchings in the Union. Two in Florida one in Mississippi. Even South Carolina and Georgia failed to get into the record. W trust they are not miffed.

The Anniston Star, long a foe of mobsters like other newspapers in Alabama, is gratified at this splendid record for 1939. Says The Star:

> Law enforcement officers have laid more stress than ever upon the protection of their prisoners when feeling is high. No longer do they take them to a local jail and trust that their numbers and the impressiveness of the law will make them secure. Now, throughout Alabama, at times when authorities feel that mob feeling might imperil the life of one in their custody they remove them to another bailiwick, usually an unannounced one, as a greater safeguard.
>
> We find the Tuskegee report most favorable to Alabama. For a year at least we have gone without having to report the death of a prisoner.
>
> The mob spirit appears not to have been assistant in the South's record for the year, however. The Tuskegee report says there were 18 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All of these instances reported were in Southern states. In all instances, the report sets out, the persons were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Twenty-five persons, five white and 20 Negro men, were thus saved from the hands of mobs.
>
> Two of the lynched men were Negroes and one white. The offenses charged were murder, 1; fatal injury to boy in automobile accident, 1; altercation with man, 1.
>
> Comparison of the record shows that the three this year was three less than the six of 1938; five less than the eight of 1937 and 1936; and 17 less than 20 for 1935. Only two of the men were taken from an officer outside the jail and another was taken from jail.
>
> With the cultivation of greater intelligence among our peace officers, men who hold a respect for the law close to their hearts, the South will solve the lynch problem without outside help. Our only regret is that there were as many as three lynchings in the one year.

Back in the nineties it was taken for granted that there might be a total of at least 100 lynchings annually in the Union and in some years we believe—we are guessing now—the total far exceeded 200, virtually all of these crimes occurring in the magnoliaed South.

At last, however, public opinion was whipped into reverse position. Enlightened newspaper editors and enlightened statesmen are responsible for it. In Alabama, for example, most of the newspaper editors for as far back as this reporter can remember, have been hammering away at the mob spirit, just as at the turn of the century they were hammering away at the evil of pistol-toting. They virtually broke up pistol-toting as a popular custom among men. Now mobs are going out of fashion.

Most significantly, Alabama has never had a governor who was in sympathy with lynch law. It has never had a governor who did not instinctively rebel against an outbreak of the mob. We have had our quota of time-servers, opportunists and demagogues in the executive offices on Goat Hill, to be sure, but it is to the everlasting credit of the people of Alabama that they have yet to elect a governor who had any respect for or patience with a mob.

Some other Southern states have been less fortunate. There have been governors of other Southern states in the last half century who openly condoned mob action—but never ONE in Alabama! On the contrary, in this state our governors have been quick to call out the national guard to protect prisoners, and upon occasion they have demanded the impeachment of sheriffs whom they believed to be guilty of neglect of duty in protecting suspects.

Ultimately the bloody stain left by moronic mobsters on the escutcheon of the south will be removed. Speed the day!

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
January 1, 1940

Year's Lynching Record

In a circular dated December 21, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute reports there were only three lynchings during 1939, as compared with six for 1938, eight each for 1937 and '36 and 20 for the year 1935. The institute's department of records and research also notes reports of 18 instances "in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," saving "a total number of 25 persons, five white men and 20 negro men, from the hands of mobs." Of the three lynching victims during 1939, "two were negroes and one was white." Two of the lynchings occurred in Florida and the third in Mississippi.

In brief, by the showing of the institution which specializes in lynching statistics, that particular crime neared the vanishing point during the year just ending. Almost as encouraging and significant is its acknowledgement that in 18 cases officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings, saving the lives of 25 menaced persons.

These figures should be called to the attention of every congressman, those in particular who have played with the idea of a federal lynching law. That project from its inception has been chiefly political, of course. Its usefulness real or fancied—even as a party issue and bid for votes—must pass with the practical disappearance of the lynching evil as just recorded by the Tuskegee statisticians.

Charlotte, N. C., News
December 26, 1939

Lynch Record

South Achieves The Lowest Figure For All Times

Only three persons were lynched in the United States in 1939. Unless, of course the boys break loose over the holidays.

That is the lowest on record. Florida led with two, and of course the other state was Old Mississippi, which just naturally cannot go through a year without at least one mob action.

From October 1937 until July of 1938 there were no lynchings at all in the South, the all-time record since the Civil War. But the 1938 score still ran up to six. And in both 1937 and 1936 the count was eight. In 1935 it was seventeen.

Three, however, looks pretty good as against the all-time high in 1894 when 165 persons, all black, were lynched in the South.

What sounds even better is that there were eighteen cases of prevented lynchings by police officers. And what makes that sound better still is that many times in the past few years there have been around 50 cases of attempted lynching.

One curious thing which is worth noting is that one of the three lynch victims was a white man. For many years all the victims have been Negroes. Another curious thing is that the standard crime of rape does not appear in the record at all. One of the crimes charged was murder, another was the altercation of a Negro and a white man, and the third was the fatal injury of a boy in an automobile accident.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
January 4, 1940

Defining Lynching

THE distinction between lynchings and gang killings is one which it is sometimes difficult to make. For example, Tuskegee Institute, which reports that only three lynchings took place in the country in 1939, included in that number one slaying which the Baltimore *Evening Sun* is inclined to regard as probably "less an organized mob action than simply murder."

The case was that of a 12-year-old boy who was struck by a taxi in Daytona Beach, Fla. He was killed instantly, and the Negro taxi driver was arrested for manslaughter. While being taken to the county jail by the sheriff, two grown brothers of the slain boy blocked the road with their car, and shot the Negro to death.

Now was this a lynching or a murder? WEBSTER defines the verb "to lynch" as "to inflict punishment upon, especially death, without the forms of law, as when a mob captures and hangs a suspected person." There was no "mob" here, in the accepted sense of the term, but there was punishment "without the forms of law."

The *Evening Sun* mentions another case which was listed as a lynching some years ago. "A murderer in Arkansas (a Negro) was pursued by a posse, and in a gunfight in which a member of the posse was shot, the fugitive was killed." The paper asks whether this was a lynching. In the absence of further details, it is difficult to tell. Certainly the death of BABYFACE NELSON in a running gunfight with G-men could not be termed a lynching, but was the Arkansas "posse" a lynching mob, or was it legally deputized, and headed by the sheriff?

Perhaps there is a disposition on the part of our Northern friends to catalogue as "lynchings" killings which in other sections of the United States would be placed in a different category. The South's record in this respect is bad enough, without its being made to seem even worse through incorrect listings of murders as lynchings. Undoubtedly the same definition should apply everywhere. If the death of a suspected criminal, at the hands of a posse, is to be termed a lynching in Arkansas, it ought to be similarly listed in Wisconsin or Pennsylvania

NEW YORK TIMES
DEC 31 1939

LYNCHINGS REDUCED TO 3 FOR WHOLE COUNTRY IN '39

Mob Violence in Eighteen Other Cases Was Prevented by Increased Precautions, Report Compiled in South Says

X X

By GEORGE HATCHER

ATLANTA, Dec. 30—Only three lynchings, the lowest number since records were begun fifty-eight years ago, occurred in the United States during 1939, it was disclosed today in annual reports of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation in Atlanta and Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, pointed out that the 1939 figure is 96 per cent less than the average and 99 per cent less than the peak year of 1892, when 231 lynchings were recorded.

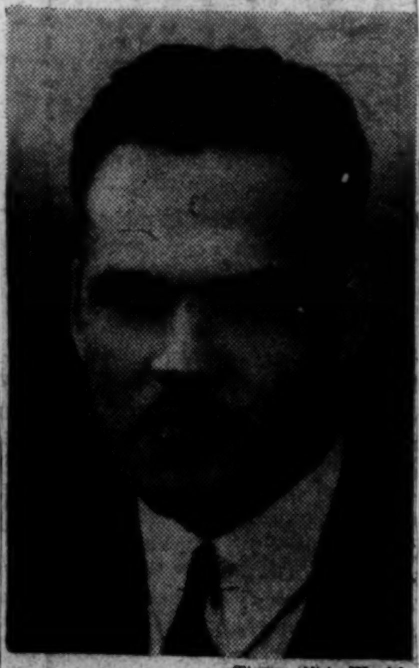
"The nation can well be proud of the progress that has been made in efforts to eradicate the mob-violence evil," Mr. Eleazer said. "While the expansion of law-enforcement agencies in recent years has been a major contributing factor, most of the credit must fall to religious and civic agencies which have crusaded against it."

Lynchings Prevented

During 1939 there were reports of eighteen instances in which lynchings were prevented. This was accomplished either by the transfer of suspects to secret jails or by the augmenting of guards and "other precautions."

"A total number of twenty-five persons—five white men and twenty Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs," the reports state.

TUSKEGEE HEAD



Times Wide World

The institute headed by Dr. F. D. Patterson aids in compiling an annual report on lynchings.

Of the persons lynched, two were Negroes and one was white. Two of the lynchings were in Florida and the other one was in Mississippi.

The year's first lynching occurred at Panama City, Fla., on April 1, when Miles W. Brown, a white man, was shot to death after being taken from the Bay County jail by a band of "four or five" masked men. Brown had been convicted of the first-degree murder of a former employer, with a recommendation for mercy, which carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. Brown's jail guards quoted the masked men as expressing resentment that Brown had not received the death penalty, and saying that "the law didn't do justice but we will."

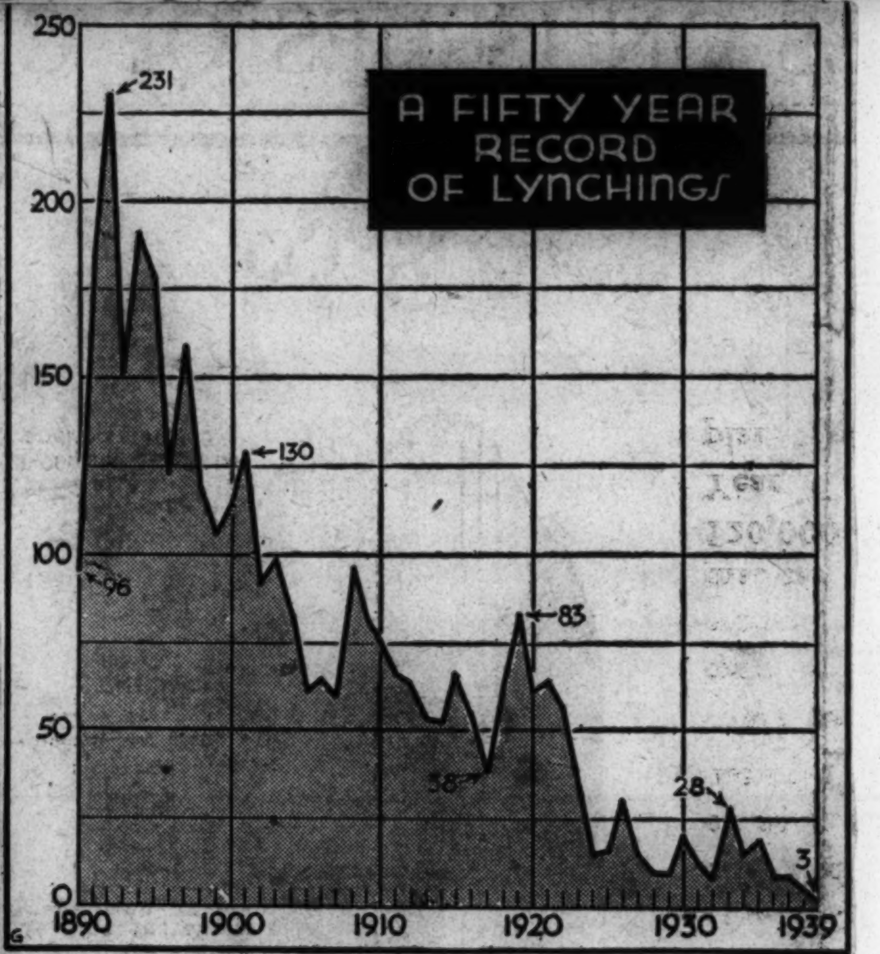
Another Florida Case

The second lynching took place on April 29 near Daytona Beach, Fla. An automobile driven by Lee Snell, Negro taxi driver, struck a bicycle ridden by Benny Blackwelder, 12. The boy was killed almost instantly. Snell was immediately taken into custody by Daytona Beach police and held for county authorities. A few hours afterward, Constable James Durden swore out a warrant for Snell, charging him with manslaughter. He took the prisoner in custody and started for Deland, the county seat. When he had got about four miles from Daytona Beach, Constable Durden said he was overtaken and passed by an automobile occupied by Everett and Earl Blackwelder, brothers of the boy killed.

According to Constable Durden, the Blackwelders swung their car across the road, blocking it. When Snell got out of the constable's automobile, several shots were fired into his body, the officer stated. The brothers were indicted on a first-degree murder charge but were acquitted.

The third victim of lynching was Joe Rogers, a Negro sawmill worker at Canton, Miss. Rogers allegedly engaged in an altercation with a white foreman of the sawmill. The foreman, according to witnesses, was struck on the head and knocked unconscious. Several days later the Negro's body was found in Pearl River near Canton, bound and badly beaten.

According to Mr. Eleazer, there have been 4,689 recorded lynchings in the United States since 1882.



The chart is based on figures of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation—Lynchings this year were the least on record.

LYNCHINGS-1939
SIDE LIGHTS

ALABAMA

6302

"Lynching Salesmen" Almost Get Lynched In Alabama Town

Whites and Blacks at Anniston Administer Physical Rebuke to Auctioneers Who Tied Rope Around Negro Boy's Neck to Attract a Crowd.

ANNISTON, Ala., July 20—(Special)—So sinister and ghastly was the means employed by two unscrupulous self-styled auction salesmen, in drawing a crowd to ply their "racket" here last Monday, that a group of several hundred persons, thoroughly revolted and angered, drove them out of town after administering a severe beating and manhandling to both offenders.

Courier
7-22-39
Pittsburgh

The crowd began to assemble when a white man suddenly appeared walking down Seventh street, leading a Negro youth by a rope tied about his neck. Ringing a large bell, the man at intervals of several minutes, shouted, "Come and see the lynching." Curious to know what it was all about, spectators increased rapidly in numbers, a majority following behind on sidewalks and in the street.

BOY FRIGHTENED

It was observed that the Negro boy was badly frightened and trembling, and that every now and then he made a half-hearted attempt to loosen the rope, only to have it jerked tighter by his captor. Murmurs of protest began to ripple through the onlookers, as man and youth suddenly turned into a vacant lot. A second white man joined them there, and the first then announced with a smirk that they would "now hold an auction sale of valuable gifts."

As the real meaning of the grisly scene that had just been enacted, dawned on them, an ominous growl came from the crowd. It surged forward. Too late, the "salesmen" realized their trick had backfired, and tried to run. They were hurled to the ground by the blows from many fists, kicked and buffeted, and were in for a bad time of it until four police officers arrived and intervened. The "salesmen" told the policemen their names were Branch Bills and M. E. Sparks. Hardly had the officers begun questioning them, however, when the crowd, still in a threatening mood, surged forward ag

Thoroughly scared, the tw

broke away from the police and sprinted to their car, parked nearby.

"SALESMEN" ESCAPE

The crowd gave chase, and though the car was already under way when half a dozen pursuers overtook it, they jumped on the running boards and kicked and pummeled the occupants until the machine reached the outskirts and began gathering speed, when they left it. The names and descriptions of the fugitives, with a description of their car, were telephoned and telegraphed to all nearby towns, with the request that they be arrested on sight. Later, the car was found abandoned in a side road. The men, however, had disappeared, and it was thought they had probably caught a passing freight train for wherever it was they came from.

During the first onslaught, someone in the crowd released the youth from the rope that had already half-strangled him, but failed to get his name. Terrified and weeping, he told several who queried him that the two white men had scared and threatened him into consenting to aid them in their scheme to draw a crowd. A collection was taken up and turned over to him, but after the excitement had subsided he could not be found. Other Negro residents who witnessed the affair, said however, that the youth is a native of Anniston and lives here with his family.

BIRMINGHAM CROWD MENACES DRUGGIST WHO SLEW YOUTH

BIRMINGHAM, Sept. 7—(ANP)—A menacing crowd of several hundred Negroes was dispersed with difficulty by police deputies and highway patrolmen last Sunday night on First avenue, N., after the proprietor of a drug store there, had shot and fatally wounded a colored youth, known as Junior Watson, about 18 years old.

Age
9-16-39
N.Y. City

The druggist, W. L. Fadely (white) appeared at the office of Coroner Evans on Monday morning for the inquest, following which the coroner said the case would be investigated by the grand jury which is now in session.

The druggist reportedly told police that on Sunday night an aged colored man rushed into his store and asked protection from young Watson, who he said threatened him. The old man remained about an hour, during which time Watson approached the door several times in a threatening manner.

Fadely did not say why he had not called the police to arrest the alleged disturber. He said he ordered the youth to leave, and Watson cursed him. He then went outside with his pistol, and as Watson advanced toward him, shot him in the mouth. So angry was the crowd that assembled after the shooting that Police Chief Riley ordered the place closed. Several colored demonstrants were arrested for disorderly conduct and loitering.

6303

LYNCHINGS- 1939
SIDE LIGHTS

CALIFORNIA

Lynching Threats To Calif. Cotton Pickers Described

Negro Strike Leader Told He Would Be Hanged, Attorney Declares; Lawyer Tells of Own Kidnaping by Associated Farmers

Daily Worker New York City

(Special to the Daily Worker) 10-24-'39

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 23.—Lynch threats by Associated Farmer vigilantes against Negro strikers in Madera County who are leading cotton pickers in their fight against the big ranchers were revealed here by Al Wirin, strikers' attorney, who was "escorted out of the county Saturday by the sheriff.

Terror is sweeping the San Joaquin Valley, Wirin said, as hundreds of strikers have been arrested on trumped up charges and hundreds of others are being evicted from their cabins.

Elmer Joseph, Negro striker who has lived in the valley 14 years, was seized by a band of 15 vigilantes led by Sherman Thomas, one of the big producers and leading Associated Farmers man.

HANGING THREATENED

The mob threatened to hang Joseph, but later released him after warning him to leave the county.

While one of the vigilantes swung a rope with which they said they would hang him to a tree, another said, according to the description of the incident by Wirin:

"We'll string you up like they do in the South."

When they released him they threatened that if he reported what had happened they would "get him."

Wirin brought Joseph to District Attorney George Mordecai to swear out complaints against the lynchers. Mordecai, who has large cotton interests himself, refused to take action in the case, Wirin said.

Describing his own kidnaping, Wirin said he had been picked up after arranging for the release of strikers in Tulare. He had also addressed a meeting of 3,000 strikers in Madera.

Governor Culbert Olson, in answer to an appeal of the strikers, said, in a telegram to them:

"We'll respond to the request of the strikers and endeavor to swing workers and employers together in the hope of securing a settlement.

"Of course, we'll also continue to let it be known in all localities that we will protect the civil rights and liberties of all individuals, including the lowliest transient agricultural worker that may be crying for the opportunity to live above the starvation level."

Civil Rights Probe Told Of Vigilante Violence

Lynch Threats, Beatings of Strikers with Chains Related to LaFollete Committee by California Cotton Pickers

(Special to the Daily Worker)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—"They got out a rope and they said they were going to lynch me."

Elmer Joseph, Negro cotton picker who was one of the leaders of the Madera County strike in October testifying before the Senate Civil Liberties Committee was describing the vigilante attacks on the strikers.

After telling how the "farmers" beat strikers across the face with chains, Joseph described how on the night he was scheduled to address a union meeting he was kidnaped by vigilantes and taken across the state line and threatened with lynching.

Daily W 12-23-39

"I'm still a little bit scared," Joseph added.

The committee adjourned its hearings today and meets again to hear testimony in January.

The close relationship between the Associated Farmers and the ginning companies was brought out in the testimony yesterday.

Evidence showed that the ginning companies actually control the cotton crop from the time the planting takes place. They paid $6,601 to the Associated Farmers in 1937.

Mrs. H. E. Nichols, wife of a small farmer with 28 acres in cotton provided one of the bombshells of the hearing when she said:

"We finance ourselves. Therefore we are not told by the ginning companies what wages to pay."

Daily Worker

Mrs. Nichols said that her husband had paid $1 a hundred pounds to the pickers while the stooges of the Associated Farmers were paying a uniform rate of 80 cents.

Harry S. Baker, official of the Producers Cotton Oil Company wa sasked by Senator LaFollette if he had any comment on her statement. 12-23-39

"The ginning companies could not control wages," he said. "The Production Credit Corp. does the actual financing."

Frank Palomares, manager of the Agricultural Labor Bureau of San Joaquin Valley, was asked if he ever solicited labor outside the state.

The San Joaquin Valley is one of the richest and most fertile in the state. Nevertheless there are 350,000 migratory farm workers living in the utmost squalor in the valley.

Palomares denied importing workers, but he was confronted with advertsiements from Mexican newspapers telling of the need for labor in the San Joaquin Valley and he changed his testimony.

Sheriff W. O. Justice of Madera County told of arresting 142 strikers who were riding in an auto "picket caravan" on the first day of the strike. All were charged with violating the country's "anti-caravan ordinance," and arraigned with $250 bail each. All demanded jury trials, and District Attorney Mordecai, who refused to turn over his records to the Committee, had a change of heart. He released them because "they had taken no part in actual violence."

Other phases of California's strife-ridden agricultural areas under consideration were the facts that State relief officials told workers they must accept employment, even when the wage rate was below that of relief; that Associated Farmers started a huge publicity campaign to censure Governor Culbert L. Olson, because he appointed a wage hearing board to investigate rates in the cotton fields; and that police, State Highway Patrolmen and vigilantes combined to deny all civil rights to striking workers.

CALLS UNIONS "RACKETS"

Alec Johnson, secretary of the California Farm Bureau Federation, closely allied in California with Associated Farmers, read a long statement, the most interesting line of which was "Another thing Congress should look into is the existence of rackets in some of the distributing centers. These rackets operate under the name of "organized labor."

The story of the Madera strike, elaborating upon the story of the vigilantes, who, armed with clubs and automobile chains, fell upon a meeting of unarmed strikers in a public park, and injured many of them, is expected to be brought out at later hearings.

The grip of the Anderson, Clayton and Company on the cotton industry was frankly admitted by one of that firm's executives, R. V. Jensen.

The company buys 35 per cent of all the cotton grown in California and Arizona and operates 46 gins.

Jensen said that his company advanced money to the farmers in order to meet payrolls. When it does it makes the advance on the basis of the wages set by the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Labor Bureau.

"Suppose a farmer or a grower desires to set his wages higher than those of the bureau," LaFollette asked. "What would be the policy of your company in connection with a loan?"

"We don't encounter that," said Jensen.

The growers, he said, "are not many way coerced. This financing is largely a matter of convenience."

Palomares testified that his bureau "had absolutely nothing to do about wages," but the records showed that the Bureau had called meetings of the farmers and that its executive board had approved the wage rates which were established

Runs Negro Off From His Home; Tells Him Not To Return

Journal

Cleveland Johnson, Negro share-cropper of Screven county, one mile from Sylvania, was run off from his home and threatened with mob violence if he returns, according to Mr. Johnson who came to The Journal's office and told his story today.

8-10-39

According to Mr. Johnson he entered into a contract with Lester Kemp to farm 12 acres of corn, 9 acres of cotton, one acre of sugar cane, and other items Now that his crops are ready for market, Kempt has refused to give him his share, and when he asked for it, according to Johnson, Kempt told him to leave and threatened to kill him if he didn't.

Savannah Ga.

Mr. Johnson is married and he doesn't know what the white folk there have done to his wife. He says he went to Sylvania for protection, and consulted a lawyer, but was unable to get anyone to protect his interest. Before leaving as instructed by Kemp, Mr. Johnson says he told the landlord: "I would like to gather my crop." Kemp is alleged to have replied: "You **aint** going to get a damn thing, but hell beat out of you". Mr. Johnson beat his way to Savannah. When he reached the city he was directed to tell his story to Davis Lee, Publisher of this paper. Mr. Lee is going to intercede for Mr. Johnson.

Mob Beats Father And Son

Georgians Told Not To Organize Workers Alliance

NEW YORK CITY—A federal investigation into the flogging of James R. Powell and his son T. Powell, by a mob of whites in Fairburn, Ga., because the Powells refused to be intimidated in their attempt to organize a branch of the Workers Alliance among WPA and NYA employees in Fairburn, last May 29, is being considered by the United States Department of Justice, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced here this week.

According to a report sent to the Justice Department following an investigation by the Atlanta, Ga., N. A. A. C. P. branch, Powell and his son were dragged from their home on the night of June 27, taken to the outskirts of the town, and beaten with straps. They were advised to do no more organizing.

Eliza J. Harrison, an employee of the National Youth Administration, who attended the first organization meeting of the Alliance, held last May 29, was also beaten by a group of white youths on the main street of Fairburn, Ga. on the night of June 22.

MOB MEMBERS

Members of this first mob that stormed the Alliance meeting last May, included, according to the report: Jim Robinson, city policeman; Thomas M. Daniels, store-keeper; Gus Walker, special police officer; Petro Hodges, leader of the mob; and Clay Williams, a drug-store employee.

Members of the mob that beat the Powells, according to affidavits, included: Autrey Milan, George Green, councilman; Gus Walker and J. R. McClure.

Urging immediate action in the case, the N. A. A. C. P. report said in part:

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

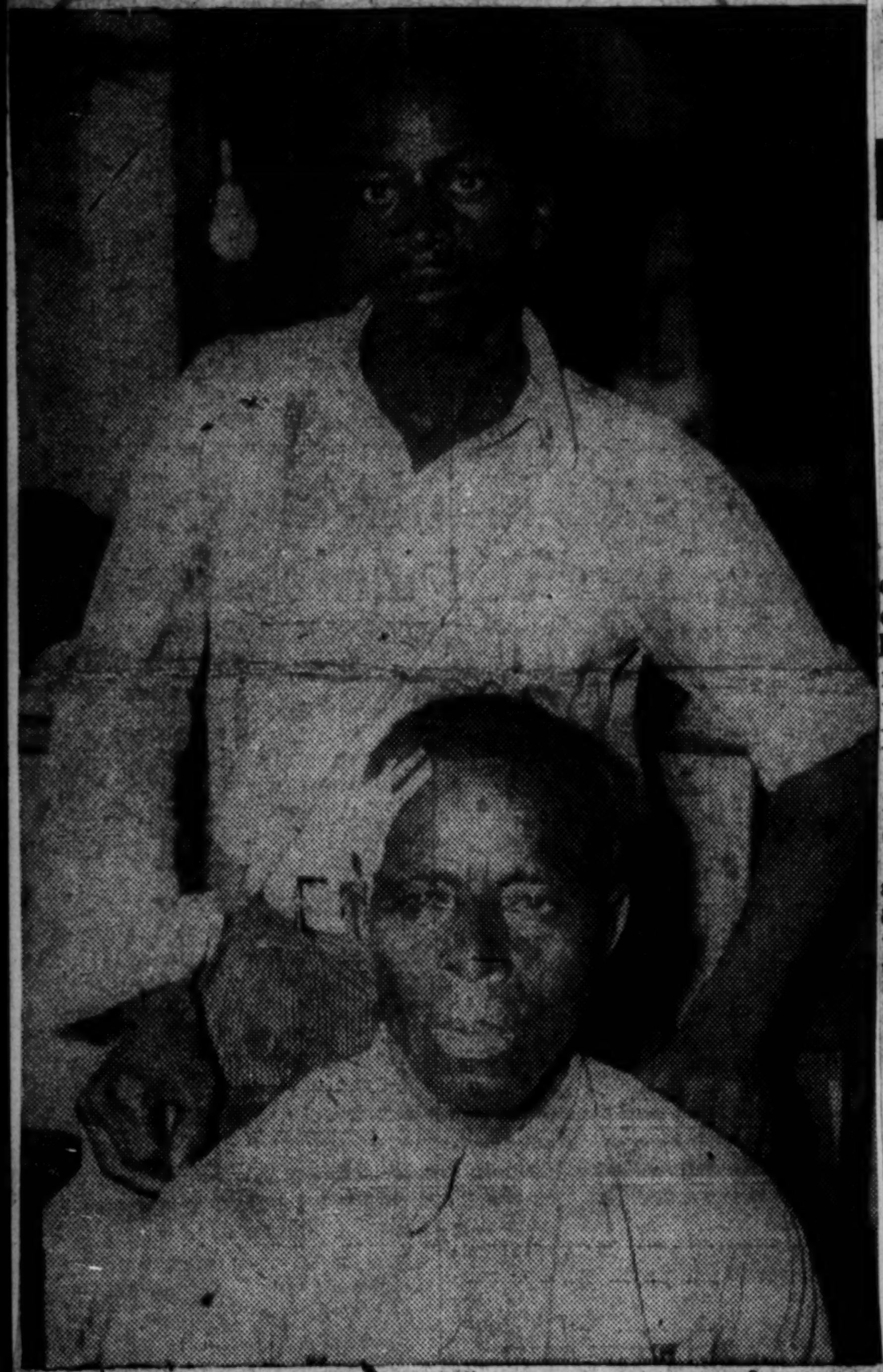
"The fundamental rights of persons to organize is well recognized in the law today and is fast becoming one of our closely guarded civil rights. Our right to organize on federal projects has been equally well recognized.

6305

LYNCHINGS- 1939
SIDE LIGHTS

GEORGIA

Fairburn Flogging Victims



Daily World 7-2-39 Atlanta Ga.

J. T. Powell, Sr., (seated) and his son, J. T., Junior, are shown seated in thee office of the ATLANTA DAILY WORLD Saturday as they described the beatings they received at the hands of a mob in Fairburn Ga. —(SNS Staff Photo).

Daughter, Wife Also Beaten

Slugged With Wrenches And Blackjacks

By LUCIUS JONES

Daily World

Apparently determined to check efforts to organize colored WPA workers of Fairburn, Georgia, a mob made up mostly of young white men violently beat up 18-year-old Elijah Harris, NYA youth, there Thursday night, June 22, around 10:30 o'clock.

Atlanta Ga.

The past Tuesday night, June 27, around nine o'clock, J. T. Powell, Sr., his older son, J. T., Jr., his wife Willie and daughter Fannie were also beaten up by a Fairburn mob which came to the Powell home in three cars, armed with sticks, tire tubing, monkey wrenches and blackjacks.

Action of the mob dates back to early interference with meetings and proposed meetings of representatives of the Workers' Alliance of America and of WPA workers of Fairburn for the purpose of unionizing the laborers.

STARTED MAY 29

Operations of the alliance in Fairburn began Monday night, May 29, when a group of 45—35 men and 10 women—convened at St. Mark's A.M.E. church there for the purpose of setting up a WPA workers' local. In charge of the meeting were J. L. Donovan and Miss Susan D. Adams, white national organizers of the Workers' Alliance with headquarters in Washington, D. C., who are generals in Georgia and Alabama.

According to Miss Adams, two carloads of white men drove up at the height of the meeting and peered through the church windows. Later, she said, Officer Jim Robinson of Fairburn, a white man named Gus Walker, apparently deputized in that he wore a fireman's cap, and a group of six white men in civilian clothes, interrupted them and ordered them to "break up" the meeting, which she says they refused to do, stating that they were within their right both because of the Constitution and by virtue of provisions of the Federal Emergency Appropriations' Act.

To prevent cessation of the meeting, Miss Adams said she went outside the church to talk with the officers and the rest of the men in the two parked cars. They tried to intimidate her into giving up her mission, she said, by telling her "these n——s down here aren't like those up North; they don't have enough sense to be organized."

WOMAN THREATENED

At that time, Miss Adams stated, the men noticed that an oldhadan the men noticed that she had an old license plate on the front of her car and that although she had new ones in the car, which she showed them along with her registration card, they heckled her and threatened putting her in jail if she and Mr. Donovan did not give up their activities in Fairburn.

Twenty-eight persons reportedly signed up to join the proposed local at the May 29 meeting. But after it, around 11:45 o'clock, Miss Adams was arrested for old license plates. She said she remained in custody until two o'clock in the morning and bail had to be arranged for her through Joseph Jacobs, white attorney for the CIO (Committee on Industrial Organization).

Miss Adams told of the threats the group made of killing someone if the organizing efforts weren't halted, turning over a number of affidavits to the office of Lawrence Camp, United States district attorney.

After she was released by Judge Parker, resident justice at Fairburn, Miss Adams said county police told them that, Constitution to the contrary, they simply could not organize in Fairburn—that if they wanted to organize the workers of Fairburn outside of the town that was their business."

ORGANIZING WHITE TOO

According to Miss Adams, they then told the county officers that they weren't only organizing Negro WPA workers in Fairburn but white as well, to which they replied that, just the same, there must be no organizing.

However, on Monday night, June 5, the group did hold another meeting scheduled for St. Mark's A.M.E. church. The convening body, Miss Adams stated, consisted of 30 members of the white Atlanta local of the Workers' Alliance, several members of the United Automobile Workers of America, white CIO unit, and six members of the colored Atlanta local. The meeting, it was reported, had to be held in the churchyard, because threats had been made upon the pastor who had been ordered not to open the doors of his church to them any more if he wanted to continue operating in Fairburn.

During the outdoor meeting carloads of the usual interferers came by, but they did not stop, reports state, and it is understood the license numbers of all those cars were secured and will be used in likely forthcoming prosecution.

MEN FLOGGED

Another meeting took place Thursday night, June 22, at the African Methodist church in Fairburn, it was brought out, but, due to road trouble, the truck bearing Mr. Donovan, Miss Adams, and other white persons attending the meeting arrived late, the session being over when they got to the place.

Upon arriving in Fairburn, Miss Adams said they immediately learned about the flogging of Harris, the NYA youth, who said eight or nine men, mostly young barely out of their 'teens, did the "job." Nine stitches had to be taken in his head.

The Powells were beaten up at their home, no meeting having been arranged since the June 22 session when Harris was flogged.

According to the elder Powell who had been elected acting president of the Fairburn colored local, after the mob beat up him, his wife and daughter, they took him and J. T., Jr., into the cars, drove them off over five miles down the

Attack on Negroes Stirs Atlanta Labor

Daily Worker

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

ATLANTA, Ga., July 22.—Labor and progressive organizations here are campaigning for the prosecution of group of mobsters who brutally assaulted a Negro WPA worker and his family in Fairburn, Ga., a suburb, last June 27.

7-23-39

The Negro, J. T. Powell, Sr., his 54-year-old wife, 34-year-old daughter and 18-year-old son were all taken out of their home, carried into the woods and beaten with straps which tore away their flesh. The attack was a part of a campaign of terror designed to break up an organizational drive of the Workers Alliance.

New York

Cooperating in the campaign for prosecution of the mob are the Workers Alliance, CIO unions, the Atlanta Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other organizations.

The mob arrived around 9:30 o'clock. There were three automobile loads of white men, five to each auto. Eight mobsters entered the Negro house and surrounded the occupants with drawn guns. The elder Powell was in the kitchen at the time. One of the gang went in and ordered him to turn around because "he might not be the one they wanted." When the old man turned, a member of the mob slugged him with a blackjack, knocking him to the floor and making a deep gash on his head.

BEAT WOMEN

Members of the vigilante gang then struck the daughter of the old man with a pair of pliers, knocked her mother, 54, to the floor. They loaded the father and son into an automobile, drove them to a deserted wood and beat them in an inhuman manner.

This terrorism by Ku Klux mobs in Fairburn dates back to May 29, 1939, at which time a group of 45 men and 10 women, colored WPA workers met at St. Mark's A.M.E. Church of Fairburn for the purpose of setting up a Workers Alliance local for W. P. A. Negro workers. The meeting was in charge of two Workers Alliance organizers.

According to one of the organizers, two car loads of white men drove up at the height of the meeting and peered into the church through the windows. Later an officer of Fairburn and a person apparently deputized, and a group of six white men in civilian clothes interrupted the meeting and demanded that they "break up" the meeting. The organizers and workers refused to do so, because they were within their legal rights under the Federal Constitution and by virtue of provisions of the Wagner Labor Act.

road, took out straps, beat them viciously, and then ordered them to "beat it."

The Powells said that, in their flogged and badly whipped state, they had to walk all the way back to their home, a distance of fully seven miles, not receiving medical attention until the next morning around 10:30 o'clock at the Grady clinic in Atlanta. The two had walked the long journey in about three hours.

BROUGHT TO ATLANTA

Following the flogging of the Powells, Mrs. Powell and Fannie are said to have been threatened, which resulted in Workers' Alliance forces transferring the whole family to Atlanta for safe keeping.

According to the Workers' Alliance officials, affidavits and full details of the incidents have been afforded District Attorney Camp and, in conjunction with the Federal Board of Investigation, the CIO, and national headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, formal prosecution proceedings are to be instituted.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
SIDE LIGHTS

GEORGIA

6306

'MOB' VICTIM IN SERIOUS STATE

Atlanta World

Atlanta, Ga. 2-9-39

A man who gave his name to police as James Davis, 20, was in Grady Hospital Wednesday in serious condition after a crowd of white persons attacked him near Whitehall and Brotherton Streets.

The victim was accused of wounding two white persons in hit-run accidents during an exciting chase through downtown streets.

According to reports, the incident began when a small truck driven by E. Greenbaur, white grocer and liquor store operator, and the car driven by Davis and containing four persons, were involved in an accident.

When Davis' car allegedly failed to stop after the accident, Greenbaum is said to have pursued. At the corner of Courtland and Gilmer Streets the fleeing car reportedly struck another car, but continued to Hunter and Washington Streets, where it crashed into a third car and came to a halt, police said.

Greenbaum, close behind, is reported to have stopped his truck got out and jumped on the running board of the halted machine in an attempt to take the ignition keys from the lock. In the attempt, the white man is said to have been knocked to the pavement and the chased machine run over him. Several white persons said they saw this act.

At Whitehall and Brotherton Streets, according to officers, the crowd of white pursuers overtook Davis as he tried to scale a high wall. One, C. A. Tinsley, white was reportedly knocked unconscious temporarily by a large rock thrown by Davis. The suspect, officers were told, then turned on the crowd, with a knife in hand, but was subdued and beaten severely.

Police came to the scene of the fracas soon afterwards and took Davis to Grady Hospital, where his injuries were shown to be serious.

POSSE FAILS TO FIND SUSPECT IN SLAYING

6-9-39

ELBERTON, Ga., June 8.—(AP)—Bloodhounds and an armed posse searched timberlands along the Broad river today for a negro suspect in the fatal shooting of Charlie Wood, an Elbert county bailiff.

"We had about 50 or 60 men in the woods all night," Sheriff John A. Starke said today, "but did not find our man. The dogs seemed handicapped by the dry upland, but we feel certain that we are searching the right territory. Guards have been stationed all along the river."

Sheriff Starke said the negro sought was Perry McIntosh, at whose house Bailiff Wood went Tuesday night to serve a warrant in a misdemeanor case. The bailiff was shot down at the door, a charge of buckshot entering his chest.

Dixie Coppers Give Negro Reporters 1 Hour To Vacate

Newspapermen Ordered To Make Fast Exit From Georgia Town

6-9-39

Kansas City

MONROE, Ga. — Escorted almost to the city limits, and given a stern warning not to ever return again, three Atlanta newspapermen were driven out of this terror-stricken city just forty miles east of Atlanta by city officers who warned them that their lives were unsafe in the community.

Trouble in this usually peaceful community has been brewing since May 3 when a colord youth was arrested on a charge of writing a letter to a young white woman. He had been lodged in the Fulton county jail, Atlanta, for safekeepink.

THREE WOMEN REPORT ATTACKS

Three days later two women, one white and one colored, are reported to have been criminally assaulted, and in connection with the assault on the white woman, a feeble-minded youth listed as J. D. Vaughn, was arrested and charged with the attack.

Vaughn was brought to trial on Monday, May 21, and found guilty as charged and sentenced to die in the electric chair at Tatnall on June 7.

NEGROES KEPT FROM TRIAL

So tense was the felling against Vaughn that no Negroes were allowed to attend the trial or even to come to town as a mob estimated at 2,000 hoodlums was milling around the courthouse bent on lynching him.

However, fifty state troopers had been dispatched to tht scene heavily armed and with instructions to protect the prisoner at any cost.

Feeling has been running high against colored citizens since shortly after a colored paper in Athens, Ga., which is just twenty-five miles from Monroe, had exposed the arrest of the colored youth, who was jailed for writing the white girl, and had contrasted the item with a story of a white policeman being caught with a colored woman.

A white salesman is said to have brought a copy of the paper to Monroe and displayed it. City officials wera incensed.

Several colored persons in Monroe, suspected of having furnished the Athens paper with information, left town for fear of their own lives.

POLICE CHIEF GRABS REPORTERS

When the news leaked out that Robert M. Ratcliffe and Charles Brontr of the Scott Newspaper Syndicate, and Jimmy Perry were in town seeking facts on the racial disorders there, the chief of police, accompanied by another officer, took them into custody and told them to get out of town for their own safety.

The officers told the newspapermen that if they printed anything in the paper concerning the situation in Monroe, it would cause several innocent "n — — s" and good "n — — s" too, to be killed.

They further admonished the newspapermen that they could handle the situation here without any outside meddling and told them they had just one hour to get back to Atlanta.

HUNT FOR KILLERS GOES INTO SWAMP

Age-Herald

Posse Shoots One Suspect In Mississippi Case

5-12-39

LEXINGTON, Miss., May 12—(AP)—Sheriff Walter Ellis said Friday one Negro had been slain while resisting arrest and a second suspect "hemmed up" as posses searched the big black swamp east of here for the slayer of Night Watchman Billy Abels, Goodman.

Birmingham, Ala.

Sheriff Ellis said the slain Negro was identified as Joseph Harris, 30, formerly of Gulfport and Tennessee and Louisiana points.

Search for the second Negro narrowed Friday to a five-mile stretch of Big Black jungle.

A third Negro, listed by Sheriff Ellis as Sim Barnes, is being held in the Holmes County Jail without specific charge in connection with Abels' death.

Farm Worker Shot To Death In Courthouse Corridor

Courier 5-20-39
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Two White Men, Brothers, Make Human Target of Man's Body In Mississippi Town—Charged With Murder, They're Out On Bond.

VAIDEN, Miss., May 18. (Special)—Charged with shooting to death in the main corridor of the courthouse here Monday, Banes Sanders, farm worker, Buck McCorkle and Jim McCorkle, white men and brothers, were placed under arrest soon afterward, but later were released on $750 bond each, pending grand jury action.

Sanders had been taken into custody earlier in the day on complaint to authorities by Jim McCorkle that he had threatened him with a pistol, at the same time cursing and abusing him. The accusation was denied by Sanders after he had been placed in the jail which adjoins the courthouse.

After several hours had passed, Jim McCorkle went to the sheriff's office and withdrew the charges. Sanders was released. Only a few minutes elapsed before officials and attaches at the courthouse were startled by a fusillade of shots. Investigating they found Sanders crumpled against the corridor wall, his body pierced by seven bullet holes. Search of his clothing showed he was unarmed.

A verdict of first degree murder was returned by a coroner's jury, and the McCorkle brothers were charged with the crime.

FARM TENANT IS FLOGGED, CLAIM

News

Negro Sharecropper Victim Of White Band, Report

11-28-39

MEMPHIS—(AP)—A report accusing seven Noxubee County citizens of kidnaping and beating a Negro sharecropper to discourage tenant farmers from taking part in the election of the county AAA committee was in the hands of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace today.

Birmingham, Ala.

J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, said a S. T. F. U. organizer, George Mayberry, was kidnaped at the point of a gun Saturday night, beaten and told to move his family out of the county.

Naming six of the seven alleged assailants, Butler said the attack was the culmination of efforts by land owners and planters to monopolize membership on the county AAA committee.

Sheriff J. W. Allen, of Macon, Miss., and C. W. Gary, Noxubee County farm agent, both said they had not been informed of the incident. Butler asserted he had not reported it to them.

LYNCHINGS- 1939
SIDE LIGHTS

NEW JERSEY

Gadsden, Ala., Times
November 23, 1939

Joisey Money

THE South will watch with interest the suit which seven negroes from Georgia and Florida have filed in New Jersey, seeking a total of $197,500 from nine white men whom they accuse of beating them, smearing them with white paint, and ordering them out of the state.

The defendants—all of them potato pickers engaged temporarily in the New Jersey harvest—were allegedly spirited from their homes, and told "get on South where you belong."

The nine men were given suspended prison terms and placed on probation, and now comes the civil action in which the offended negroes hope to recover something more tangible for the wrongs which they suffered, and we wish them luck. Remembering the success of the Scottsboro defense, we suggest that these negroes wage a campaign in the South for a war chest with which to prosecute their case. They could get help down here. It might not be a bad idea to invest $10,000 or so for a return of $197,500. The South could make good use of that Joisey money.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
November 27, 1939

Mobs—North and South

By Ralph McGill in The Atlanta Constitution

There was a small item of news from New Jersey last week which merited some slight comment. It was an Associated Press story and read as follows:

"Newark, N. J., Nov. 16.—(AP)—Charging they were beaten and smeared with white paint, seven Negro potato pickers filed in Federal Court today suit for $197,500 damages from nine white men.

"The Negroes, including one woman accused the defendants of spiriting them from their homes in Cranbury, August 11, drubbing and daubing them and then chasing them.

"All residents of Georgia and Florida, the Negroes have migrated North with several thousands of their race to harvest central Jersey's potato crop."

Now, New Jersey is the State which harbors a Georgia convict, Robert Burns. New Jersey permits Mr. Burns to remain there because the New Jersey officials decided Georgia's justice was of a bad variety and that all convicts who escaped would be welcome in New Jersey.

New Jersey has been very much in the news here of late because of the ruthless suppression of civil liberties by Mayor Hague of Jersey City.

The New Jersey newspapers were very, very casual about the beating of the Negroes. No editorial voice was raised in their behalf. No righteous indignation moved any of the officials who harbor the convict, to protest about the beating of the Negroes from Georgia and Florida. The same newspapers which carry large headlines on Southern "atrocities," apparently did not recognize the atrocity in their own State. Had the same thing happened in Georgia it would have received much more space in the newspapers and much more attention from the public than this bit of mob rule in their own State.

The Jersey mob was, I suppose, very much like our own, composed of ignorance and viciousness. The incident proves nothing specific. Yet, I hope it will call attention to the fact that in the South such instances of mob violence grows less and less.

The would-be mob at Smyrna some months ago was crushed out in quick order. The community, led by Editor Otis Brumby, whose editorial, "You Yellow Rats," set the tempo of the people, stamped it out.

Here in Atlanta there have been recent instances of the beating of Negroes by bands of men. The Ku Klux Klan denies any connection. Police have been unable to arrest those responsible.

Public indignation would be aroused in Atlanta as in Smyrna if the outrages were known. Not all are reported, probably because of fear.

It might be that a law suit, such as the Negroes filed against New Jersey, might serve to call attention to the incidents and make police more vigorous in their efforts to discover those responsible.

The New Jersey outrage merely calls attention to the fact that ignorance and viciousness are not confined to the South. Conditions in the South are improving, slowly but surely. The instances of violence by small mobs of men who have beaten Negroes in Atlanta, are fewer than in by-gone years.

This does not excuse those that are committed. It merely means we must keep working at developing tolerant thought and action; that we must insist the police officers bend every effort to catch some of the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

There is an economic background to most of the troubles. The problem to be solved is one of economics. It is not essentially a social problem.

There is only one method of attack and that is to develop a spirit of tolerance and understanding. There has been too much selfishness in the treatment of the Negro problem. There has been too little effort really to understand it. Not enough persons recall the words attributed to the late Booker T. Washington, that those who hold down the Negro forget they have to stay down with him. Washington wrote that when he began to think of his school; he often was so distressed at the plight of his people he almost gave way to bitterness. Instead, he founded his school. Today many of the evils Booker T. Washington saw are gone, never to return.

There is more tolerance, more understanding, but the fight must go on. The outrages such as New Jersey experienced and those which occur in Atlanta, grow fewer each year. But the causes underlying them can be attacked. Police efforts are, of course, only temporary. The real job is to attack the fundamental causes; to keep public opinion informed and aroused.

The New Jersey incident is important only in that it demonstrates once again the fact the problem is not wholly Southern.

TRY TO 'BUY OFF VICTIMS OF THE JERSEY MOBBISTS

Case Is One Of Hundreds Such As Faced

8-23-39

NEW YORK. —Certain groups in Cranbury, N. J., are trying to hush up prosecution by making a "deal" with the seven Negro potato pickers who were stripped, beaten and threatened by a white mob here, August 11, it was reported by the N.A.A.C.P.

The basis of the deal was reported to be payment in full for work done and small "damages" for treatment by the mob providing the victims would agree not to prosecute.

Governor A. Harry Moore was urged by the N.A.A.C.P. to employ every instrument of his office in support of the Jersey state police who are attempting to track down the mob which viciously attacked the seven Negro migratory farm workers, one of them a woman.

Action on the part of the national office of the association followed a probe launched by the Princeton, N. J,, branch of N.A.A.C.P. under Dr. David W. Anthony, Chairman of the New Jersey State Conference of N.A.A.C.P. branches, and president of the Princeton branch, shortly after the mob attack.

Working in conjunction with Dr. Anthony, the association's national office sent a special investigator to the scene of the crime. A copy of this investigator's report has been sent to Governor Moore.

A general summary of the report made public by the N.A.A.C.P. gives some indication of the sordid conditions that face southern migratory workers, who roam from state to state doing seasonal farm work. Forced to accept a wage level that is beneath subsistance, they face the fierce exploitation of farmers on the one hand and the resentment of local workers, Negro and white, who refuse to work for less-than-subsistance wages (preferring relief) on the other. In addition to this, Negro migratory workers face the prejudice of those whites who fear the fact that these people are tasting for the first time a modicum of freedom, above their semi-slavery status in the South.

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7 Potato Pickers Stripped

8-19-39

Woman Among Victims Daubed With Paint

Special to Journal and Guide

HIGHTSTOWN, N. J.—The spirit of pernicious intolerance exemplified in the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion and other groups of their ilk, crossed the Mason and Dixon Line and rode high wide and handsome here late Saturday night in this little community situated almost within a stone's throw of the state capital.

It chose for its victims seven humble migrant Negro citizens from Georgia-one of them a woman—whose only crime was to try to eke out a meager existence in the potato fields with which this community abounds.

What was characterized as "smouldering resentment" against these transient potato pickers who flock by the hundreds into this farm region late each summer, flared into the open shortly after midnight when a gang of masked white men raided a farm shack, stripped its seven colored occupants, and daubed two of them, one of them a woman, with white paint.

The raid occurred on the farm of Raymond Dey, on the old Trenton Road near Cranbury, three miles north of here.

VICTIMS STRIPPED

The raiders, consisting of at least a dozen men, broke down the door of the shack, shattered windows, wrecked the meager furnishings it contained, and forced the seven trembling victims to leave the building at the point of shot-guns. All were stripped of their clothing as they left the shack, according to Corporal E. O. Netterman of the New Jersey State Police Patrol who made the preliminary investigation.

Five of the victims, Corporal Netterman said, had their arms bound behind their backs and were ordered to run across an open field. As they started running, the raiders fired their shotguns at the fleeing figures.

The gang then forced Jake Preston, and his wife, Mrs. Frances Preston both 23, into one of four automobiles. They were driven three miles to a field where they were forced from the machine and streaked with white paint.

Preston, who is from Coleman, Georgia, told Corporal Netterman that the raiders then ordered him and his wife to "head South where you belong." The couple were chased into the field as the gang drove off in their cars.

NO ARRESTS MADE

Although an attempt was being made Sunday to trace members of the raiding party through the license numbers on their cars, no arrests had been made early this week. Mr. and Mrs. Preston were taken to a hospital where the paint was removed.

They returned to the Dey farm clad only in old potato sacks which they found on a neighboring farm. Three other colored men were arrested at Cranbury on Saturday night on charges of disorderly conduct. Two of them were fined $10 and costs, and the third received a suspended sentence.

Investigating officers professed to see no connection between the two affairs.

Mob Violence and A Money "Deal"

8-25-39

THEY added insult to injury in the case involving the brutal beating of seven Negro farm hands in Cranbury, N. J. recently when they attempted to bribe the workers into dropping charges against the masked mob that perpetrated the crime.

Certain groups in Cranbury are said to be promoting the "deal" but it is doubtful if it will go through. It is hoped that the Negroes who were injured and humiliated by the mob action will not compromise with the representatives of their assailants but will cooperate with the agents of law and order so that mob violence in New Jersey will be nipped in the bud.

Journal Guide

NEGROES BEATEN, THEY SAY IN SUIT

Telegraph

Potato Pickers Declare Nine White Men Attacked and Daubed Them in Paint

11-17-39

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 16 (AP)—Charging they were beaten and smeared with white paint, seven Negro potato pickers, filed in federal court today suit for $197,500 damages from nine white men.

Macon, Ga.

The Negroes, including one woman, accused the defendants of spiriting them from their homes in Cranbury, Aug. 11, drubbing and daubing them and then chasing them.

All residents of Georgia or Florida, the Negroes have migrated North with several thousand of their race to harvest Central Jersey's potato crop.

The night they were beaten, the Negroes quoted their assailants as saying, "now get on South where you belong."

Principal claimants in the suit were Jacob Preston and wife of Georgia, who seek a total of $85,000. Five other plaintiffs demand $22,500 each.

Defendants named are Howard Wiley, Herman Meyer Jr., Henry Eisert, James Quinn, Raymond McDuffie, Benjamin Javett, Lawrence E. Ward and Kenneth Applegate, all of Cranbury, and Thomas Strelsbski of Hightstown.

The white men, after entering pleas of no defense to charges of assaulting two of the Negroes, were given suspended prison terms and placed on probation.

ASK $225,000 DAMAGES FROM N. J. HOODLUMS

Defender

Potato Pickers File Suits As Mobbists Are Given Suspended Sentences

10-7-39

— BULLETIN —

JERSEY CITY, N. J., Oct. 6—Dissatisfaction with suspended sentences given members of the mob which attacked seven potato pickers near Cranbury last August resulted this week in the filing of suits for $225,000 in damages against the mobbists.

Announcement of the suits was made Monday by Miss Alvaine Hollister, state secretary of the Workers Defense League of New Jersey. In making the announcement, Miss Hollister denounced the suspension of sentences as "outrageous." She said that her organization will also demand a grand jury investigation of the entire affair.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Oct. 6—Judge Adrian Lyon who gave suspended sentences to eight confessed members of a mob which tortured seven potato pickers near Cranbury last August, was under fire from a dozen different sources this week.

Criticism of his handling of the case was leveled at Judge Lyon by officials of nearly every progressive organization in the country.

Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said in a statement this week: **"We are shocked that mob rule has been practically given the green light by the law enforcement agencies of New Jersey."**

Miss Alvaine Hollister, state secretary of the Workers Defense League of New Jersey, called the decision of the judge "outrageous."

Dr. David W. Anthony, president of the New Jersey conference of N.A.A.C.P. branches, declared that "we are deeply disappointed in Judge Lyon. We regret that he feels the outrage committed by these mobbists of such little conseqeunce. This appears on the surface to be tacit approval of mob violence."

In a crowded courtroom in Middlesex county courthouse, here, Friday, Judge Lyon meted out suspended sentences of from two to three years to eight of the nine members of the mob. The ninth, a minor, had been turned over to juvenile authorities.

Representatives of the N.A.A.C.P. from New York and this state, and officials of other interested organizations heard the sentences in stunned silence. The session lasted but 15 minutes.

Raise Money For Defense

The story of Cranbury, N. J., which is the story of southern migratory workers coming to New Jersey to pick potatoes, and being met with the same terror that is their lot in the deep south, was told to more than 800 persons in Newark, N. J., Sunday, Sept. 24 by Mrs. Jake Preston.

Speaking at the St. John M. E. church, the only woman among the victims of the mob, gave a graphic picture of the terror to which these migratory workers were subjected.

"When they told me to take my clothes off," she said, "Preston said to me, 'Don't do it, honey,' and when they kicked him and told him to shut up he told me, 'If they want your clothes off let them take them off themselves'."

A few more words about the attack, and Mrs. Preston's voice choked. She was unable to proceed, and had to be assisted back to her seat on the platform.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
November 19, 1939

Joisey Money

THE South will watch with interest the suit which seven negroes from Georgia and Florida have filed ~~in~~ New Jersey, seeking a total of $197,500 from nine white men whom they accuse of beating them, smearing them with white paint, and ordering them out of the state.

The defendants—all of them potato pickers engaged temporarily in the New Jersey harvest—were allegedly spirited from their homes, and told "get on South where you belong."

The nine men were given suspended prison terms and placed on probation, and now comes the civil action in which the offended negroes hope to recover something more tangible for the wrongs which they suffered, and we wish them luck. Remembering the success of the Scottsboro defense, we suggest that these negroes wage a campaign in the South for a war chest with which to prosecute their case. They could get help down here. It might not be a bad idea to invest $10,000 or so for a return of $197,500. The South could make good use of that Joisey money.

MOB'S PRANK MAY BE COSTLY EXPERIENCE

12-2-39

Nine Defendants Drew Suspended Sentences In Court

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 1—The brutal prank of nine white mobsters who confessed to staging a midnight raid on seven Race potato pickers in August at a Cranbury farm resulted in the filing of a costly suit this week.

Defender

Attorneys for the innocent victims filed damage suits totalling $197,500 against the nine mobsters who drew suspended sentences from Judge Lyons after they had stripped, beaten and told their victims "Go back South where you came from." Suits were filed in U. S. District Court here last Thursday.

12-2-39

Defendants named were Howard Wiley, Herman Meyer, Jr., Henry Eifort, James Quinn, Raymond McDuffie, Benjamin Cavett, Lawrence E. Ward and Kenneth Applegate all of Cranbury and Thomas Strelbski of Hightstown.

Two of the complainants were Mr. and Mrs. Jake Preston, who were stripped and forced into an automobile and driven to a distant field where they were forced to lie down nude while the mobsters dabbed them with white enamel paint. As a result of this treatment, Mrs. Frances Preston had to remain in the hospital for medical attention. Their suits for damage totalled $85,000.

Others for whom suits were filed were William Morton, O. D. Streeter, Louis Street and James Jordan all of Florida, and Monroe Holmes of Pennsylvania.

Although only nine of the mobsters were caught and stood trial, attorneys for the potato pickers said they hope to uncover the names of others who took part in the attack and include them as defendants.

Feeling ran high last fall following the raid and state police who investigated the raid succeeded in arresting nine. Appearing before Judge Adrian Lyons, each of the arrested members of the mob pleaded no defense. After a week's delay they were given suspended sentences and placed on probation for a year.

The suit is the largest ever entered in a district court on behalf of colored people. Representing the raid victims is the law firm of Robinson and Moris. The defendants must answer the suit within twenty days.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
February 10, 1939

The Mob in North Carolina

The armed men who entered the Goldsboro, N. C., jail, took out two Negro prisoners, carried them into the country and beat them up, could obviously have lynched their victims without the law's being able to stop them. Let it be emphasized that they did not and let it be remembered that had this incident occurred in some other parts of the South the results would probably have been murder.

But in spirit, this private vengeance was an approach to lynching. And in the helplessness of the jailers to protect prisoners whom they were sworn to protect, it was a shocking example of laxness. Perhaps that is to be explained in part by the fact that lynching is extremely rare in North Carolina and by the further fact that it is almost unknown in towns as large and pesumably as well organized as Goldsboro—15,000 population in 1930 and a county seat. In view of such circumstances and of the mildness of the charge against the Negro prisoners who were held for striking white men it seems clear that the jailers were taken by surprise.

But that is slight excuse. The crime is the worst of its type that North Carolina has known in years. A State government, which has taken pride in the State's freedom from lynching and a public opinion which condemns lynching, have every reason to support the local efforts to discover and punish the mob members.

GOLDSBORO, N. C., Feb. 10—(ANP)—A Dixie mob whose usual specialty is lynching, last week departed from its traditional custom and confined itself to a flogging of its victims. Goldsboro police reported that an unidentified band of whites took two prisoners—Kirby Baldwin and Floyd Edwards—from the city jail d,rove them five miles west of here, beat both men with saplings and tree branches, then set them free.

Acting Desk Sergeant Walter Gurley at the jail declared that armed men at pistol point had forced him to turn over the prisoners who were being held with an attack last Saturday on Goldsboro's Mayor J. H. Hill, who reportedly was struck on the jaw and knocked down by Edwards, during a sidewalk dispute. Baldwin got into the scrap later, was also placed under arrest.

Baldwin told police they were flogged by five men who after beating them, told Edwards he was not wanted in the county. After being reelased, both men walked back to Goldsboro, but Edwards was not located immediately. Police said Baldwin's condition was not serious.

NEGRO PRISONERS BEATEN BY BAND

Flogged In North Carolina After Attacking Mayor

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—(AP)—Two special state agents joined city and county officers today trying to establish identities of a small band of white men who seized two Negro prisoners at the city jail yesterday and flogged them.

Acting Police Desk Sergeant Walter Gurley said an armed "stranger" came to headquarters, forced him at gunpoint to hand over the keys, and then with several companions whisked the Negroes away in an automobile.

The victims were Kirby Baldwin and Floyd Edwards, each about 30, who had been jailed Saturday on assault charges growing out of an attack on Major J. H. Hill, of Goldsboro.

The Negroes said there were five white men in the group. The two prisoners said they were taken to the woods, lashed with saplings and tree branches and then released.

Both showed signs of a severe beating, but physicians said they were not seriously hurt.

Director Frederick J. Handy, of the State Bureau of Investigation, at Raleigh, at the request of Gov. Clyde Hoey, sent two men here to aid in the inquiry.

Greensboro, N. C., News
February 11, 1939

THE LYNCHING SPIRIT.

While North Carolina has thankfully been spared a lynching, it was not spared, in the removal of two prisoners from the Goldsboro jail and their subsequent flogging, a manifestation of that spirit of disrespect for the law from which lynching springs.

The pattern, as reported in dispatches, is that usually followed in mobberies. How much effort was made to protect the prisoners is attested by the circumstance that one man forced their delivery. Another was reported to have come into police headquarters; the remainder waited outside. None was masked; but, would you believe it, all were total strangers to the officer on duty.

But these details of technique must be too well known to require recitation. We are interested in the spirit of the disturbance. Here were two negroes held for charges of assault upon the Goldsboro mayor. They were safely—or it turned out unsafely—in the hands of the authorities, awaiting trial; and there is no reason whatever to doubt that they would have got all that was coming to them, and probably then some, under the evidence and the statutes. But no, those who were most stirred by the alleged assault decided to do some assaulting of their own, preceded by the trivial matter of holding up police headquarters and trampling, in more deliberately heinous fashion, the very law for whose infraction their victims were being held.

The Daily News knows Goldsboro as a law-abiding community, whose citizens are overwhelmingly against any such act as either the accused negroes were charged with committing or as the band which invaded the city jail did commit. The challenge to this predominant group is to see all infractors brought to justice. What sort of example is it when those who break the law by committing assault are in turn dealt with by a band of assailants themselves? The only redemption is for a law which has been doubly assaulted to assert itself forcefully and fully in both instances.

Link Police Sergeant To Jail Snatch, Crue Flogging Of Two Men

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—(CNA)—Evidence that acting desk Sergeant Walter Kelly, white, was implicated in the flogging of two Negroes who were taken from the City Jail here recently was disclosed here this week. Kelly's statement that he did not recognize two unmasked white men who took the prisoners from their cells at the point of a gun was contradicted by the fact that the men were familiar with the set-up in the jail office, going straight to the drawer in which the keys were kept.

At the same time, Floyd Edwards, 26, one of the beaten men, said on three different occasions that he heard Kelly call: "Come here, Edwards, we have to get out of here." Kelly said that the visitors got the prisoners; he made no attempt to stop them.

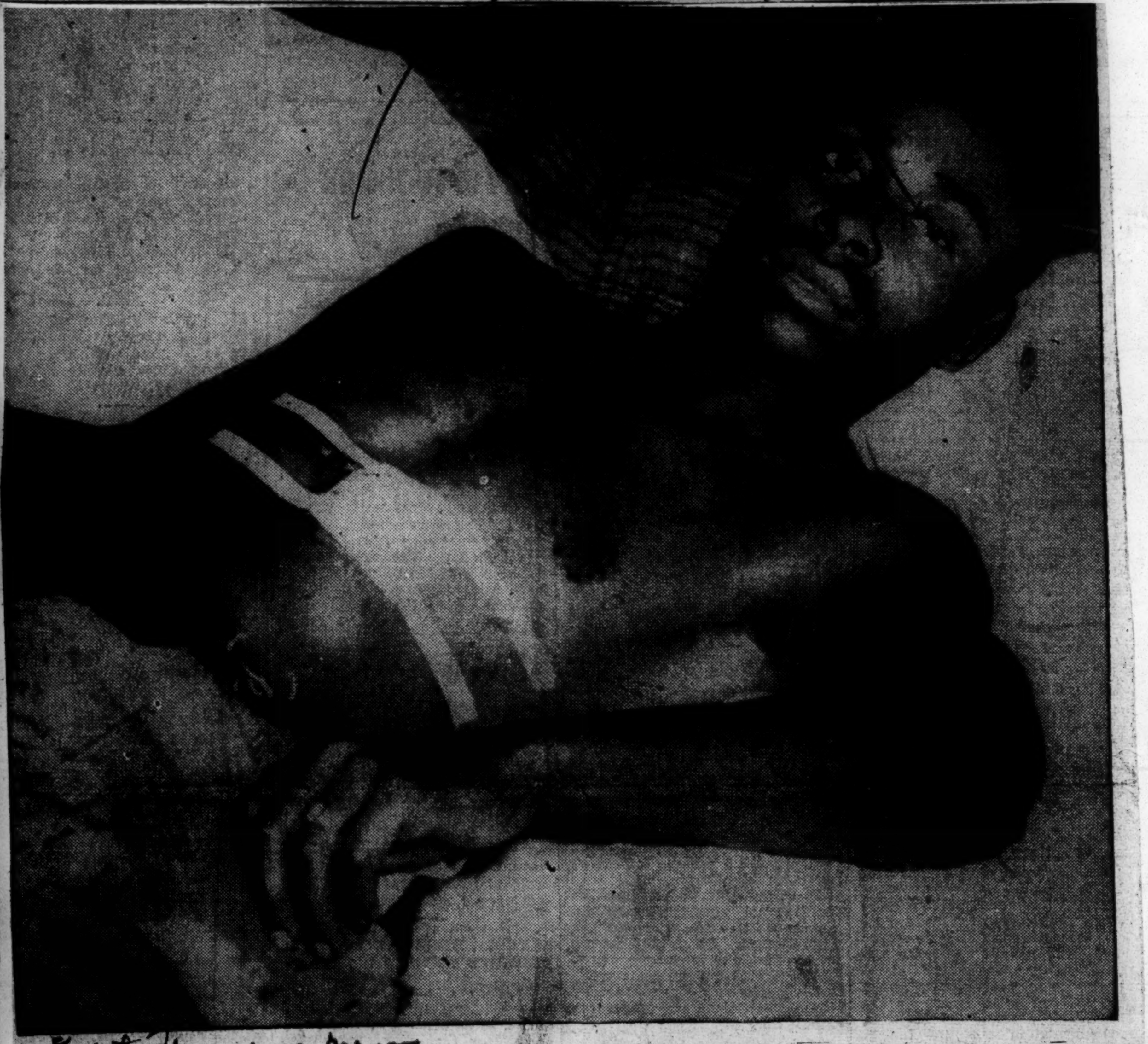
Meanwhile, state officials, G. S. Scott and N. C. Hoover, arrived here from Raleigh to aid Goldsboro officials in their investigation of the flogging. The Grand Jury is to meet to conduct an investigation. Observers charged the Grand Jury with "stalling" when the meeting originally scheduled for last week was postponed because "it would take time to reach all members of the jury."

Edwards and his companion, Kirby Baldwin, 24, were taken from the jail by two white men who were later joined by many more. The prisoners were taken to a secluded spot and severely beaten with branches of trees. Edwards has almost recovered, but Baldwin's condition is critical and he will probably need at least ten days more of hospital treatment.

Baldwin and Edwards said they were told to "get out of the county and stay out." Police, searching for them, finally located them at their respective homes, both suffering from severe lacerations on the back and legs and other wounds.

They had been jailed on a charge of assaulting Mayor J. W. Hill.

Mob Lashed His Body With Young Pine Trees



East Tennessee News

2-23-39

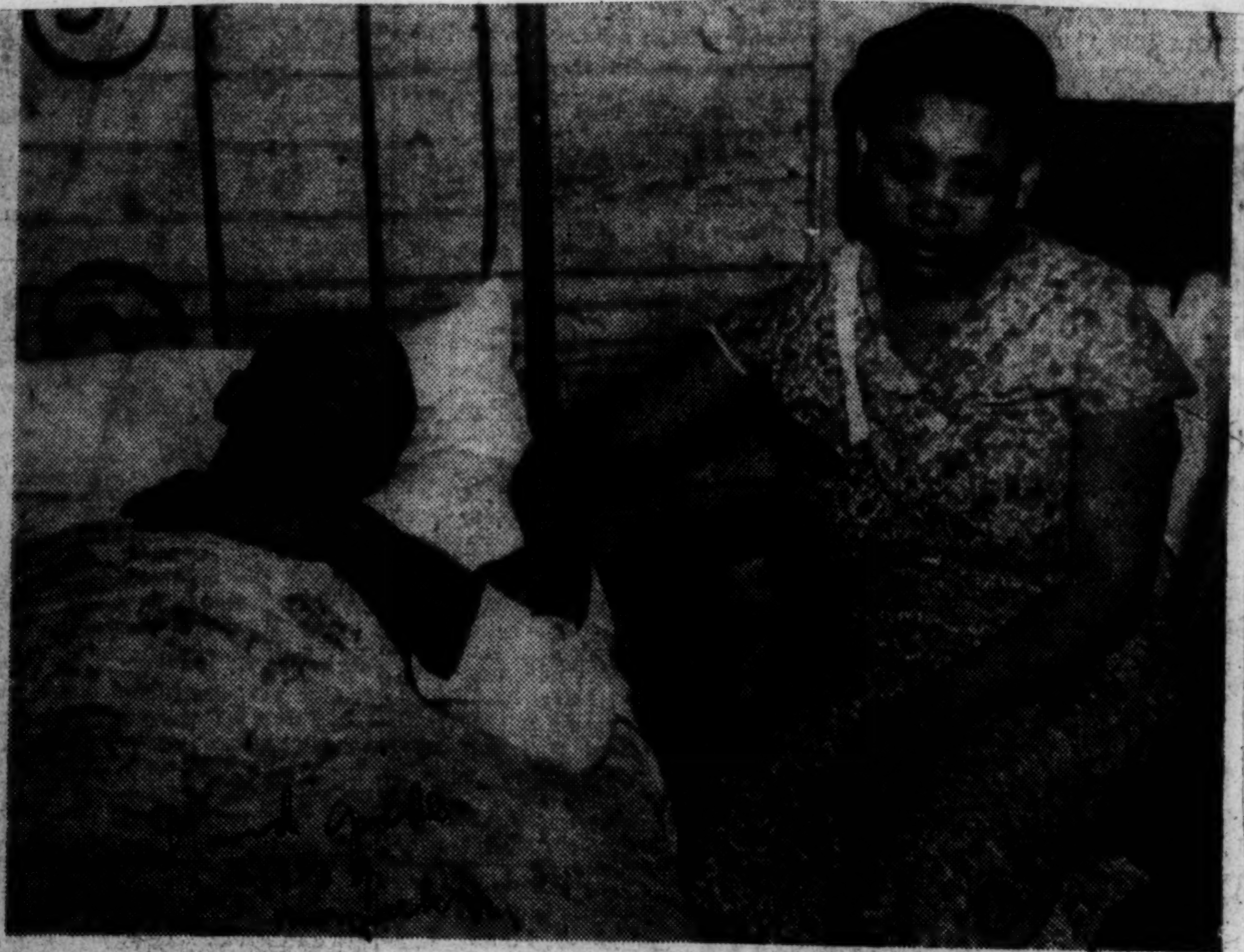
Knoxville Tenn

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—A mob composed of at least five unidentified white men severely flogged Floyd Edwards, shown above, and Kirby Baldwin, after taking them from the city jail, where both had been lodged on charges of attacking Goldsboro's Mayor J. H. Hill. Police reports said the men were taken from the jail at pistolpoint, driven five miles west of Goldsboro, beaten with saplings and tree branches and then set free. Edwards, who is seen recovering from his injuries, was said to have been told after the flogging that he was not wanted in the county. He was accused specifically of striking Mayor Hill on the jaw and knocking him to the ground. Both men returned to Goldsboro, however. (ACME Photo)

LYNCHINGS - 1939
SIDE LIGHTS

NORTH CAROLINA

6311



Floyd Edwards, one of two victims of a mob which last week abducted him from the Goldsboro, N. C., jail and brutally flogged him, is shown, top his back and legs a mass of livid welts, as he lay on the bed in the modest three-room home of his parents in the Shine section of Greene County. His father, Andrew Edwards, and mother, Mrs. Julia Edwards, are shown trying to comfort him. Kirby Baldwin, the other flogging victim, is shown in the bottom photo with his wife, Mrs. Sylvia Baldwin. The couple are the parents of five children ranging from eleven to two years of age.

Mob Flogs Victims In N. C.

Atlanta World

2-12-39

Atlanta, Ga.

Two Prisoners Freed After Being Beaten

GOLDSBORO, N. C.,—(ANP)—A Dixie mob whose usual specialty is lynching, last week departed from its traditional custom and confined itself to a flogging of its victims.

Goldsboro police reported that an unidentified band of whites took two prisoners, Kirby Baldwin and Floyd Edwards from the city jail, drove them five miles west of here, beat both men with saplings and tree branches, them set them free.

Acting Desk Sergeant Walter Gurley at the jail declared that armed men at pistolpoint had forced him to turn over the prisoners who were being held with an attack last Saturday on Goldsboro's Mayor J. H. Hill, who reportedly was struck on the jaw and knocked to the ground by Edwards, during a sidewalk, despite Baldwin got into the scrap later, was also placed under arrest.

Baldwin told police they were flogged by five men who after beating them, told Edwards he was not wanted in the county. After being released both men walked back to Goldsboro but Edwards was not located immediately. Police said Baldwin's condition was not serious.

6311

FLOGGED BY CAROLINA BAND!

Goldsboro, N. C.—(CNA)—Negro Citizens here want to know what the police and prison guards were about when five "unidentified" white men entered the local prison and took away two prisoners held on a charge of attacking Mayor J. H. Hill.

Union

3-30-39

Two two prisoners, Floyd Edwards and Kirby Baldwin, both about thirty years old, were spirited to the outskirts of the city and flogged into semi-consciousness.

Community, Ohio

First news of the seizure was contained in a laconic police announcement that a group of "strangers" entered the prison and took the men away. There was no explanation as to

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No Action After State's Probe

Atlanta World

Atlanta, Ga.

2-19-39

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—(SNS)—In a secret session lasting two hours, the Wayne County grand jury last Wednesday revealed it had insufficient evidence to request indictments in the brutal flogging on February 4 of Floyd Edwards and Kirby Baldwin.

Prior to the meeting of the grand jury, North Carolina's Governor Hoey promised Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that he would send an agent from the State Department of Investigation to Goldsboro to make an official study of the roadside flogging.

The unfortunate affair was the result of an altercation growing out of the alleged refusal of Baldwin to get off a crowded sidewalk and let Mayor J. H. Hill pass. Edwards was accused of striking the mayor on the jaw and knocking him to the ground.

After both men had been jailed on charges of attacking the mayor, a group of "unidentified" white men "forced" Policeman Walter Gurley, acting desk sergeant, to turn his prisoners over to them.

Baldwin and Edwards were carried to a waiting automobile and then driven 10 miles from the city where they were forced to lie down on a ditch bank and suffer beatings at the hands of the white men. The victims said they were whipped with limbs and switches from saplings.

LYNCHINGS - 1939
SIDE LIGHTS

TENNESSEE

6312

FEARED MOB VIOLENCE, NEGRO TELLS SHERIFF

Commercial Appeal

Hearing Set At Huntingdon In Highway Deaths

Special to The Commercial Appeal

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., Dec. 11.—Preliminary hearing for William Townes, negro, who told Sheriff A. O. Milan last night that fear of mob violence caused him to flee the scene at midnight Saturday when a car driven by Townes killed two men on the highway just outside the city, will be held Thursday or Friday.

12-12-39

The negro surrendered last night.

J. M. Williams, 77, of Huntingdon and W. R. Robinson, 66, of Milan were killed. Cleo Williams of Milan suffered severe injuries. After hitting the men, the driver of the car deserted the machine.

The two men, according to Sheriff Milan, were walking along the shoulder of the highway into Huntingdon when hit by the automobile.

Memphis, Tenn.

The death brought to three fatalities near Huntingdon Saturday. Odell Little of [illegible] died of injuries received late Saturday night when a car in which he was riding overturned on the Jackson Highway Saturday afternoon.

6313

LYNCHINGS- 1939
SIDELIGHTS

VIRGINIA

TAR AND FEATHER MOB CONVICTED

Down in Virginia three socially prominent young white men have been convicted for tarring and feathering a white columnist who writes for a Washington newspaper. The court and the jury held that the three constituted a mob in the meaning of the law and thus convictions appeared to be easy.

Of course, we are glad it was a white man who was the victim of the mob, otherwise we doubt that a conviction would have been had.

Argus 12-8-39
St. Louis, Mo.

TARRED AND FEATHERED

Down in Virginia three young white men, who ranked high in the social calendar have been convicted of tarring and feathering a member of their own race, a columnist who writes for a Washington newspaper. The three white men were arrested and brought to trial. The court and the jury held that the three men constitute a mob. The coniction of those men means respect for the law, however the victim was a white man, but whenever and where there is respect for law, it means that the community is a pretty safe place to live. No one knows what the outcome would have been if the victim were colored, but let us believe that the law would take its course.

Plaindealer
12-15-39
K.C. Kansas